

Defective, or just deaf?

Bryan Appleyard Page 21



Poison pens: the Führer and the warring writers

Section Two, Cover Story

Euro '96: how to survive football hell

Section Two, Living

THE INDEPENDENT

3,006

THURSDAY 6 JUNE 1996

WEATHER Dry and sunny 49° (H) 45° (L)

Tories plan sixth-form vouchers

JUDITH JUDD and FRANK ABRAMS

Exclusive: White Paper to pave way for election manifesto pledge

The Government will next week pave the way for a Conservative election manifesto commitment to introduce vouchers for all 16- to 19-year-olds.

The move will be contained in the Competitiveness White Paper, which will propose payment for results for all school sixth forms. This will place sixth forms on the same funding basis as other further education colleges, enabling vouchers to be used across schools and colleges.

The plan is a victory for the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, and for right-wing Conservatives

who want to promote market forces in education. They have out-manoeuvred Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, who has been resisting the voucher proposals.

Mrs Shephard is worried that plans to fund sixth forms and further education colleges in the same way could force some small sixth forms to close.

Ministers face a conflict between their desire for more competition and their policy of supporting school sixth forms which are academically suc-

cessful but not always economically viable.

But the White Paper to be launched next Thursday by Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, will press ahead with proposals to ensure that school sixth-formers are funded in the same way as further education students.

A report last year said that one of the main obstacles to the introduction of vouchers is cost. The average sixth form course is more expensive than a further education course.

Funding for further education

colleges and sixth form colleges is based partly on exam results but funding for school sixth forms is decided by the number of students they recruit.

The White Paper will propose that sixth form funding should be based in part on successful completion of A-level or vocational courses.

A consultation paper to be published by Mrs Shephard's department will explore the options. For instance, schools might get more cash for students successfully completing three A-levels than for those

completing only two. Successful GCSE retakes might also attract more funding. Schools would have an incentive to turn away less able sixth formers.

Stephen Byers, a member of Labour's front bench education and employment team, said: "Gillian Shephard is being squeezed between an alliance between Kenneth Clarke and the Tory right who are in favour of vouchers."

Mrs Shephard is worried that the plans to fund both schools and colleges in the same way might backfire by damaging

school sixth forms, favoured by middle class parents.

In colleges, almost all funding follows the student while in schools only four-fifths does so and there is protection for those with only a few pupils. A recent report by accountants Coopers and Lybrand said a sixth form education cost £3,500 per year while a further education college course cost £3,300.

Ministers tried to introduce vouchers for this age group two years ago, but the scheme stalled after this cost difference was revealed. Now ministers are ar-

guing that the sixth form courses cost only slightly more than further education ones if the calculation is based on the proportion of students successfully completing three A-levels.

Schools and colleges reacted with anger to the idea of vouchers last night, saying that they were designed to drive down the cost of education. They also said there was no need to introduce market forces into 16-19 education because competition for students was already fierce. The real problem was attracting adults, they said.

John Dunford, president of the Secondary Heads' Association, said schools were already responding well to the needs of 16-year-olds.

"This would be a completely unnecessary and retrograde step which would involve a huge bureaucracy. We do not need a voucher system," he said.

Colin Flint, principal of Solihull College and a council member of the Association for Colleges, said he was not against vouchers but they were not needed. "A very hard-nosed market-driven system which was all about outcomes would not be helpful."

Education methods, page 6

Santer and Major go head-to-head

SARAH HELM DONALD MACINTYRE and IMRE KARACS

The British Government and the European Commission were in open confrontation last night after a blunt warning from Jacques Santer, the Commission President, that the EU beef ban will remain in force until Britain ends its sabotage.

The sudden escalation in the brinkmanship between the Government and the Commission - on whose support Britain had originally been counting in the beef crisis - appeared to leave the two sides in the most serious stand-off yet, with no obvious or easy resolution in sight.

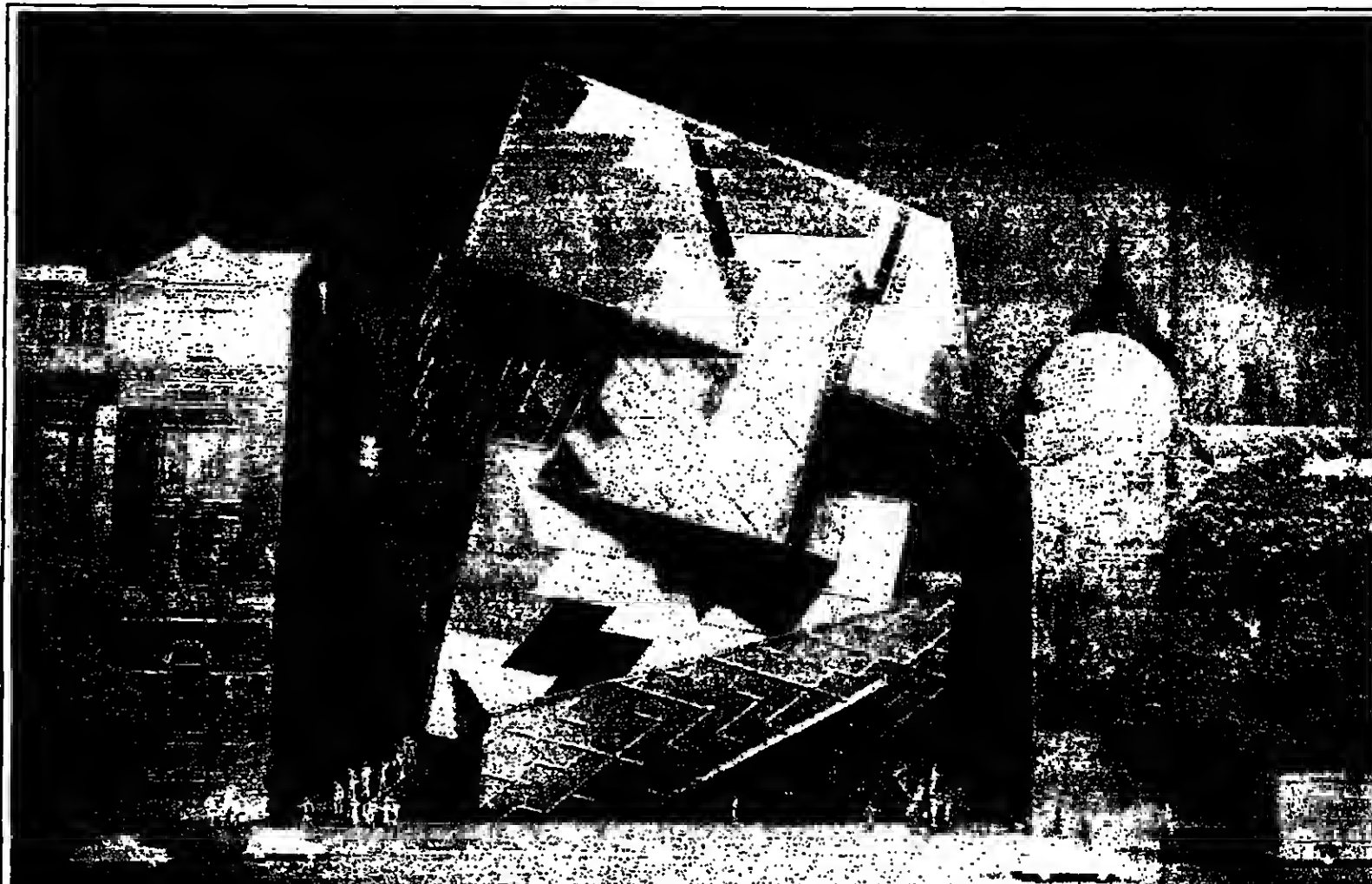
After making it clear that the Commission would fulfil its commitment to lift the ban on gelatine, tallow and semen, Mr Santer went on to say firmly that this was the last time the Com-

mission would come to Britain's aid. While Downing Street insisted the policy of non-co-operation would go ahead, Mr Santer said the Government would receive no framework for ending the rest of the ban while its "absurd" non-co-operation tactics continued. He described the effects of the British tactics as "extremely grave".

"It is the duty of the Commission to launch an appeal to the British authorities to give up this policy and let the European institutions do their work," he said.

Although Mr Santer was speaking only in his capacity as President of the Commission, his words echoed the increasing anger being voiced in European capitals. Mr Santer insisted he was "not at war" and was not seeking "unconditional surrender" from Britain. However, he

TURN TO PAGE 2



In the year 2001 this will be the most admired, reviled and argued over building in Britain. Jonathan Glancey talks to its architect. Page 21

QUICK
£1bn bid kicks off
Three media giants yesterday delivered sealed bids of as much as £1bn to the Premier League for the right to broadcast top football in Britain over the next decade. Page 3

Gummer homes in
John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, yesterday launched a national debate on how to accommodate the estimated 4.4 million new homes which will be needed to be built in England over the next 20 years. Page 3

Negative reaction
Students on the Royal College of Art MA photography course have issued a public statement calling for the resignation of their course director after an unprecedented number of failures in the course. Page 9

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An everyday story of how the Daily Mail digs its dirt - and how to throw it back

By Polly Toynbee

This is a pre-emptive strike against the scribe merchants of the *Daily Mail* - an everyday story of dirty-raincoat journalism. I am in the happy position of being able to land one on them before they try and land one on me. Most tabloid victims are not so lucky.

Here is the story. It started some weeks ago when I met the *Mail's* new associate editor, Veronica Wadley, sunk to that post recently from the *Daily Telegraph*. At a party, laughing over drinks, she told me: "You are the absolute *bête noire* of the *Mail*. We talk about you often at meetings." I represent all the liberal values they loathe, she said. (And as far as I am concerned, the honour is returned: they stand for everything that stinks about moralising hypocrisy). Everything I write affronts them - on Michael Howard, law and order, the legalisation of soft drugs, poverty and social responsibility - you name it, they hate it. But most of all, my family values. She said, laughing, that they were out to get me. I laughed too - imagining some reasoned confrontation argued out in print. How naive.

A couple of weeks back the *Independent* reprinted from *Prospect* magazine a long correspondence between myself and Melanie Phillips of the *Observer*. Over more than 20 years we have stood at opposite ends of the spectrum on family values issues. She takes a stern view of divorce and urges people to stay together for the sake of their children and society. I have always regarded divorce not as a social disaster but as a fundamental civil liberty.

In the course of our exchange of letters, Melanie suggested supporters of freedom were simply apologists for their own divorces. I explained I was widowed and neither my husband nor myself had ever been di-

vorced. What I did not say, because it seemed to me no-one's business, is that for the last three years I have had a close relationship with a man who separated from his wife. We live an open public life, what's new?

The *Daily Mail* think they sniff out hypocrisy. They think they've got me - but I think not. Now if I were a silly MP like Rod Richards, or any other family val-

ued words about me like "marriage-breaker".

I am puzzled. I try to imagine how they can turn this everyday consternation of domestic circumstance into A Story. I am glad I do not have to pen the opening lines of this dull tale about a back of little interest to

giving casing the joint. My 11-year-old son was terrified, but even more so when the house actually was broken into that day, for the first time in years. A coincidence, I am sure.

But it is hard to describe the paranoia this induces. I try to imagine how much worse it would be if I did have a secret to hide, especially from children. In a fit of anxiety I rang a se-

home for me to call him. Colleagues wisely advised me not to do so. But then I decided not to take this like a victim and to hit back first. To stop him writing his story before I can write mine, I called him yesterday morning to say that I would talk to him at great length and in great detail, but not until today. (For chance.)

In the background there is the sound of his children having breakfast. He is plainly astounded by my offer.

"I don't like this story at all," he bleats. "I'm going to ask them to put someone else on it." Awfully nice of him. "But I've got four children to feed and they might not let me hand it out." Later, Mr Jones rang a colleague of mine and told him he had asked to be taken off the story. Let's hope his rediscovery of decency does not earn him the sack. We do not know if some other poor blighter has been assigned the "story". But we can assume so.

It's standard *Daily Mail* stuff. Geoffrey Wheatcroft, an erstwhile friend, once wrote a damaging stinker about me in the *Mail* when I was at the BBC and then had the nerve to write me a cringing letter claiming his copy had been doctored, and anyway, he had a lot of little Wheatcrofts to keep in shoe leather. This lack of moral fibre does not seem to have dimmed his ardour for moralising on anything and everything for the *Mail*.

So there it is, the newspaper of family values at its lowest. Why are they so afraid of honest argument with those who have different views? Why can't they come out in the open and debate their beliefs? It is because their view of society is such a mishmash of contradictory hypocrites, so far removed from most families' complicated experiences. No doubt they will retaliate against me some day. But it is time to stand up to them.



ues advocate, that would be another matter. If I were Melanie Phillips, then Bingo! But I have always argued for people to escape unhappiness where they can, life is not a rehearsal, etc etc.

First hint that something was up: people start getting calls from a David Jones of the *Daily Mail*, digging for dirt. Colleagues in this office get calls. Mr Jones is ferreting away amongst friends, collecting quotes. The story he seems to be creating is the age-old saga of idylls destroyed by scarlet Jezebels. Mr Jones is throwing

most *Mail* readers. How many divorced, separated or philandering journalists work on the *Mail*, I wonder, idly? But the *Mail* thinks with a few sneaky phone calls a reporter can get to the bottom of these difficult things.

Suddenly I find it frightening. Neighbours are getting calls - some of them people I have never met. On Tuesday a man came over from Number 6, deeply worried by a call from the *Mail* asking detailed questions about what hours he had observed any men coming and going at my house. He suspected it was a bur-

rior *Mail* writer, an acquaintance who I thought would not much like this kind of stuff. This contact spoke to David Jones and then called me back, explaining: "He's not a happy bunny". Poor Jones did not like this assignment, which had been passed on to him from a more senior journalist who refused to handle it, but the editor Paul Dacre, was keen on it. However, unhappy bunny or gleeful weasel, my heart does not go out to Mr Jones or his employers.

David Jones left a heap of messages on my pager and at

XERYUS ROUGE
POUR HOMME



GIVENCHY

news

Beaming down to the Brave Old World

It was a beautiful day and I thought to myself, what could be nicer than to spend it in the company of Old Labour? We could talk about times past and sing a few of those old, rousing songs. Later on we might take in an Indian and sink a couple of pints of heavy to wash down a pork vindaloo.

So off I went to a press conference featuring that dangerous radical, Roy Hattersley. Gloriously contrary now that he is unencumbered by high party office, Hattersley discerns which way the political tide is flowing within his party – and then swims strongly and loudly in the opposite direction. One day



DAVID AARONOVITCH

soon he will be expelled, complete with dreadlocks and nose-rings, selling Socialist Worker outside Victoria Station, stopping only to take the occasional swig from a bottle of Krug.

To get to Mr Hattersley and company I had first to gain entry to the suite of MPs' offices

at Number 7, Millbank. This involves waiting for one curved perspex door to slide open, standing inside a small bubble, waiting for the first door to slide closed again, and then waiting once more while a second transparent door opens. All of which happens with the swish and hiss of one of those airlocks in Star Trek. Presumably the idea is to equalise the air pressure between MPs' natural environment and that of the world outside.

Once aboard I prepared to take a time trip with Roy, Gerald Knuffman and Joan Lester, who had come together as The First Past The Post Group,

formed to campaign against any change in the system for electing the House of Commons.

Roy's role was to take the discussion on to the higher plane of principle and destiny. If Labour was to fulfil its social promise, it must do so unrestricted by alliances with Liberals, nationalists and other oddbods. Did anybody realise how awful it was during dark days of the Lib-Lab pact (1977-79, for students of ancient history), when the whims of footloose centrists drove men like Denis Healey to tears?

Should Roy's high-mindedness fail to persuade Labour

MPs to oppose change, Gerald Knuffman was on hand to spell out the more personal consequences. Thirty-four would have to give up their seats. They wouldn't like that, now would they?

Joan Lester would proceedings up. Like Gerald and Roy she has actually served in a Labour government. Her line was that she had fought nine elections under first past the post, and had won eight of them.

And it's true – she had. But Labour hadn't. I made a quick calculation that her first election was the 1964 Labour victory that ended "thirteen years of

Tory misrule". In the following 32 years, Labour enjoyed a good working majority for four of them and a precarious one, or none at all, for another seven. The other 21 saw Conservative governments with solid or huge majorities, none of them elected with a majority of the popular vote.

So, as I stood in the airlock waiting to be beamed back to my own planet, I pondered the strange phenomenon of a group of people fighting like hell to retain a system that has so manifestly not worked for them. The phenomenon of Old Labour, in fact.

Politics, pages 10, 11

Severn crossing opens

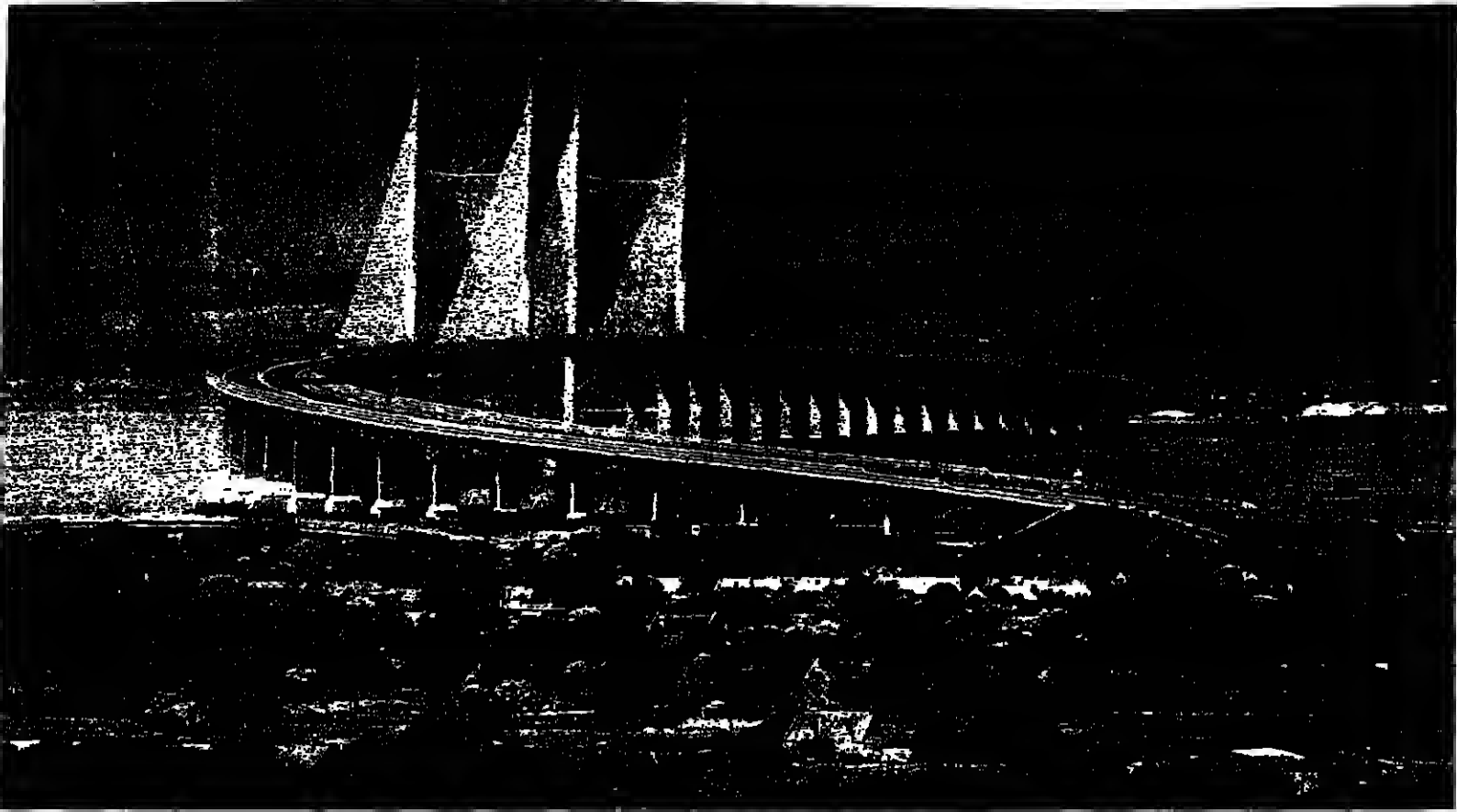
The Prince of Wales officially opened the £330m Second Severn Crossing yesterday – and handed over 4p himself.

In a traditional gesture, Prince Charles gave a 1p coin to each of the four children who presented him with scissors for ribbon-cutting at either end of the three-mile river crossing, the longest in Britain.

The ceremonies, 30 years after the Queen opened the first crossing, marked the end of one of the toughest engineering challenges in the world: £2,000 tons of concrete and steel went into the new gateway to Wales.

Two 21-gun salutes heralded the ribbon-cutting, with RAF jets providing a fly-past and a Navy flotilla passing under the bridge which, at its highest point, soars 125ft above the estuary, according to reports, it is already in need of repair.

Photograph: Brian Harris



EU President warns Britain

FROM PAGE 1

went on: "I think that the British must give up this non-cooperation, this blocking, this stonewalling. It does not create the climate we need if we want to proceed to a realistic framework for lifting the ban."

The warnings exposed more clearly than ever the disastrous consequences of Britain's policy of disrupting European business in retaliation for the beef ban.

John Major had hoped that blocking European policies would force member states to agree a framework for relaxing the ban in time to avert a head-on clash at the Florence summit later this month. The disruption, however, has backfired and Mr Major now appears to have no clear way out of the crisis. Mr Santer confirmed yesterday that several member states had refused to back the easing of the derivatives ban on Monday as a direct result of the blocking campaign.

Mr Santer's statement followed an angry meeting of the full Commission, when several commissioners voiced fury at the way Britain has blocked their policies this week, and de-

mauded that even the easing of the derivatives ban be shelved until Britain ended its disruption. The Commission has been particularly angered by Britain's sabotage campaign, because it was the Commission which called for European "solidarity" with Britain, and backed the easing of the derivatives ban – only to find Britain more combative than ever.

Yesterday, Mr Santer said: "Solidarity is a two-way street. Fairness is a British concept." A senior ex-minister said the move was not unexpected and that there was every chance that negotiations would now "go underground", with a deal still on the cards for the Florence summit in two weeks.

But another serving pro-European minister expressed concern at the way in which the issue was being exploited by Tory Euro-sceptics, saying: "John Major has embarked on a very high-risk strategy." His anxieties will be reinforced by the reaction of one hard-line Euro-sceptic, who described Mr Santer's statement as "wonderful news" because it would foment opposition to the EU.

Tristan Garel-Jones, page 20
Industry anger, page 23

Ulster talks at risk over 'strand' dispute

BY COLIN BROWN

The Irish peace progress was under threat again last night after a defiant IRA statement and a new dispute between London and Dublin over the appointment of former US Senator George Mitchell to head the cross-party talks on the future of Northern Ireland.

John Major held up a deal, which was expected to be signed two days ago, after the Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble refused to allow Mr Mitchell to chair the "strand two" talks on future relations between Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic.

British ministers were privately accused of unravelling an earlier agreement by Dublin. "We thought we had an agreement on Tuesday night but they have unpicked it," said one source. Britain wanted "strand two" talks to be chaired by the Canadian member of the Mitchell commission, John de Chastelain.

The Ulster Unionists and some British ministers were

not prepared to trust Mr Mitchell with one of the most delicate areas of the talks. They insisted that Mr Mitchell should be limited to chairing the opening session, and a sub-committee on decommissioning of IRA weapons.

"We are arguing about the whole role of Mitchell," said another source at Westminster. The brinkmanship over the final arrangements threatened to sour the agreement between the two governments for the talks.

As part of his efforts to break the impasse, John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, paid a surprise visit to London to hold brief talks with the leader of the Ulster Unionists, Mr Trimble, who had taken a hard line when he met Mr Major on Monday.

Mr Bruton, who was breaking short a flight to Ireland after talks with Chancellor Helmut Kohl in Germany, did not go to Downing Street to meet Mr Major. British Government sources said Mr Bruton had to address the Dail and had no time to meet Mr Major. The Irish Prime Minister told

the Dail an "enormous range" of points had now been agreed with the British government about the format of the negotiations.

Mr Major was briefed on the breakdown in the agreement by Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, shortly before hosting an official lunch for Mary Robinson, the President of Ireland, at Number Ten, with Mr Spring and other guests.

IRA sources, in briefing a number of journalists, made it clear that any possibility of a ceasefire should be discounted, principally because of the British government's attitude on decommissioning. The likelihood of a ceasefire was described as "remote in the extreme."

One source said: "Let us not completely the position on de-commissioning. The IRA will not be de-commissioning its weapons, through either the front or the back doors. We will never leave nationalist areas defenceless this side of a final settlement."

The senior IRA source described the idea of reviewing decommissioning after three months as a fudge, after which Britain would re-erect the issue as an absolute barrier to progress. He accused the government of hardening its position.

The comments all but remove hopes that a last-minute compromise could be found which might trigger an IRA ceasefire in time for talks. While the two governments have been looking for a formula on parallel decommissioning, the IRA position appears to be that even this is out of the question. Behind this may lie an IRA assessment that it will need to wait until the next British general election.

Mrs Robinson later said it should be possible to remember the history of Anglo-Irish relationships without bitterness at a time of growing links between the countries.

Mrs Robinson, in Britain on a four-day official visit, said the trip gave a chance to "take stock" of the links between the two peoples.

Ruddles County Riddles.

No. 6. A Question of Semantics.

Raggle was a former	home with a glass of County,	So we posed him this
English teacher with a very	was the American son of	question: "Raggle" we said
precise mind. Critics called	plural subjects and singular	"Which is correct? Ruddles
him a podiatrist but as his	verbs. For example: "ACME	own some of the finest pubs
friends pointed out, anyone	PICTURES presents..."	in the country. Or: Ruddles
who appreciates the finer	He was also irritated by the	owns some of the finest pubs
qualities of Ruddles County,	way English companies tend to	in the country..."
cannot be all bad.	use singular subjects and	To his eternal credit,
One thing that got old	plural verbs. For example:	Raggle's answer was 100%
Raggle really hot under the	"XYZ CAR RENTAL are proud	correct. What do you think?
collar even when relaxing at	to someone..."	



Sheffield: Riddles is correct. Ruddles does not use any plural subjects. Ruddles never has been (or should be) a "Raggle".

Rocket explosion inquiry

The European Space Agency's Ariane-5 rocket exploded on its maiden flight on Tuesday because of a failure of electronic communication between the guidance system and the on-board computer, according to ESA officials, writes Tom Wildie.

Daniel Mugnier, launch operations director at Kourou in French Guiana, said that 37 seconds into the mission the on-board computer apparently started to believe – wrongly – that the rocket was veering off course and therefore issued a command to the rocket motors.

The control system swivelled the nozzles of the rocket engines so violently that they hit the end-stops, the rocket turned over and the stresses broke off the upper part, triggering automatic self-destruction.

In Britain, scientists were putting a brave face on the damage to their research programmes following the loss of the four-satellite Cluster payload carried on Ariane-5. At ESA headquarters, the focus was moving to the contractors and the pre-flight tests. The agency's inquiry is due to make its first report by 15 July. Launch-pad prospects, page 21

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

Two-thirds of a congregation have left the Church of England in the largest single group conversion to Catholicism following the decision to ordain women priests. A total of 128 present and lapsed members of the congregation of St Matthew's church at Bethnal Green in the East End of London, were received into the Roman Catholic Church 10 days ago. Their curate and deacon have also been ordained as Roman Catholic deacons.

The parish priest, Christopher Bedford, plans to become a Roman Catholic in September, when his pension from the Church of England will have risen to a level he considers sufficient, according to the *Catholic Herald*. Fr Bedford was leader of the Romanising faction within Forward in Faith – the group which organised Anglican opposition to women priests, and a considerable figure in the old Anglo-Catholic machine. The new congregation will continue to use their old building, sharing it with those Anglicans who have stayed, though they will officially be part of the neighbouring Catholic parish of St Anne's. *Andrew Brown*

The Princess Royal has rejected an invitation to become the first member of the Royal Family to address the TUC Congress. The Princess was advised that an appearance at this year's conference in Blackpool might be seen as an endorsement of the labour movement ahead of the general election. She was asked to speak in her capacity as head of the Princess Royal Trust for Carers, but union leaders also believed her appearance would enhance the movement's national standing.

The decision comes amid mounting sensitivity in the Royal Family over any hint that they may be favouring one of the political parties. Both the Prince and Princess of Wales have been involved in recent political controversies. George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, has accepted an invitation to speak at next year's TUC Congress as part of union leaders' policy to attract well-known figures outside the union movement. *Barrie Clement*

Numbers of inmates in jails could rocket in a record high of 60,000 by autumn next year as courts hand out tougher sentences. Richard Tilt, director-general of the Prison Service, warned yesterday. He said an urgent building programme was needed simply to house the growing numbers of inmates this year.

It is understood that he will now demand around £115m – equivalent to the total capital budget for the current financial year – from the Home Secretary to finance a further 3,500 places by March. He told the Commons Home Affairs Select Committee that the jail population, at 54,600, was rising far quicker than expected and was already at the projected total for next spring.

More than a thousand years before humans learnt to brew, and when mud-brick homes were a wild new building fad, man learnt to make wine, according to new archaeological evidence. The contents of a pottery jar, excavated in the Zagros mountains of northern Iran, indicate that Man knew 7,000 years ago that grapes were good for more than just eating, say a team of scientists from the University of Pennsylvania Museum in Philadelphia. It shows residues of tartaric acid, found only in large quantities in grapes, and oleoresin, a natural additive used to slow the conversion of alcohol to vinegar.

The first wine would probably have tasted like the Greek favourite retsina, which is flavoured with pine resin, because of the use of the additive, made of resin from the terebinth tree. In fact, wine was invented in what may have been one of man's most productive periods, gastronomically speaking. Around 5,000 BC, humans also devised bread, beer, and milk products. The result described in today's issue of the science journal *Nature* is the oldest vintage in the world – a Stone Age paste that dates back to between 5,400 and 5,000 BC, when grapes were made by binding stems into cleft sticks. *Charles Arthur*

New guidelines governing the restoration of nurses and midwives who have been struck off the register for offences including rape, child abuse and physical assault, have been agreed by the professional regulatory body. The guidelines follow a national furor over the decision by the United Kingdom Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting in March to allow a convicted rapist to return to practise as a mental nurse.

The man raped a former patient in his home in 1983. It later emerged that he had a previous conviction for drugging a patient in order to have sex with her. He was working as a care assistant – a non-nursing post – at a home in East Sussex when details of his case became public. The Royal College of Nursing mounted a legal challenge to the UKCC's decision, saying it was not in the public interest for the man to practise after two convictions. *Liz Hunt*

A Jewish policeman who claims he got bulimia after suffering anti-Semitic abuse from fellow officers at work yesterday won a compensation settlement from the Metropolitan Police after an industrial tribunal in north London upheld his claim for racial discrimination.

Constable Paul Thomas, 40, from Wembley, north-west London, suffered more than two years of constant taunts from colleagues at Chiswick police station in west London, who called him "hynde", "yid" and "few boy" and waved bacon rashers in his face. The father-of-three said he lost five stone in weight and spent almost two years on sick leave and had psychiatric treatment for depression after contracting the eating disorder as a result of the abuse.

Holiday airlines are introducing handcuffs to staff to restrain drunken passengers on flights. Air 2000 and Leisure International Airways said yesterday that they will be introducing the cuffs to cope with a growing problem with violent or disruptive passengers. A number of other charter companies said they were "reviewing" their handcuff policy. News of the review comes the week after England footballers caused £5,000 worth of damage on a Cathay Pacific flight from Hong Kong.

Victims of the thalidomide drug are to be given an extra £2m by the Government to help them cope with their disabilities. Stephen Dorrell, Secretary of State for Health announced yesterday. The money will be paid to the Thalidomide Trust, which was set up in 1973 to distribute compensation payments after the tragedy. Under the original settlement the makers of the drug, Distillers, paid out £19m which was later topped up with £5m from the Government to offset tax liabilities.

Wales's oldest man, Griffith Williams, celebrated his 108th birthday in a Portmadoc nursing home yesterday, with his usual cup of whisky and a clear. Mr Williams, wounded at Ypres in the First World War, is also one of the world's oldest living authors. His autobiography, *Coffi Cawr*, was published on his 102nd birthday. *Glennda Cooper*

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

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A Japanese man...likes to write poems about...the delights of Spam

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY
Tokyo

Spam frying in lard
The whir of the kitchen fan
Summer of my youth
For centuries, Japanese men of letters have recorded the passing of the seasons and the pangs of love in *haiku*—tiny, delicate poems of 17 syllables. For decades, consumers all over the world have enjoyed the cruder pleasures of Spam—that pink, gelatinous pork product. Now, courtesy of the Internet, these two seemingly incongruous forces have been

united in an entirely new literary form. Welcome to the world of "Spamku".
Spamku, quite simply, are *haiku* about Spam, and they are part of a worldwide renaissance in *haiku* which is taking place in cyberspace. Dozens of *haiku* web sites have sprung up, ranging from serious literary forums in Japanese and English to more outlandish innovations. These include "Viku" (*haiku* with accompanying video graphics), and "SciFaku" (*haiku* with a science-fiction theme), and even a site devoted

to "humorous" *haiku* about leprosy.
But the most inventive of the lot is the Spam *Haiku* Archive, set up a year ago by John Nagamachi Cho, a half-Japanese scientist at the Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico. "In the age of MTV attention spans and sound-bite news coverage, most [people] do not have the patience and discipline to channel their creative impulses into a sustained and coherent art form," writes Mr Cho in the Spamku manifesto, posted at the site. "The *haiku* form is, thus,

たべのこし
ありが うしうし
じまつ ノート

perfect for our culture. Spam, that mysterious and irresistibly repulsive food product, has

Loose translations

A half-eaten slice/ Ants swarm the cold, greasy plate/A suicide note

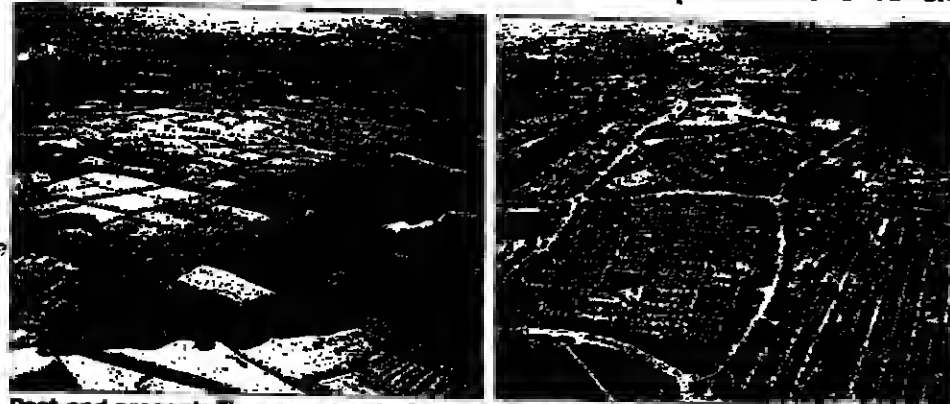
In Romanji:
TABENOKOSHI
ARIGA UUA UUA
JISATSU NOTO

spawned a post-modern, cross-cultural literary form. Nobody knows who invented

the Spamku but, in its 12 months of operation, nearly 4,000 Spamku have been posted in the Archive at <http://www.naic.edu/~jcho/spamku/sba.html>. An average of 10 new poems are added every day. Spamku-ists include Japanese, Australians, Germans, Britons and Americans. All contributions must adhere to the strict *haiku* form—three lines divided into five, seven and five syllables—but they reveal a range of complex attitudes to Spam which belie its seemingly humble status. Some, like the one above, are nostalgic memories of Spam past. Others focus on the poignant, tragic character, of Spam: *Formless, spreadable, Beneath contempt, Pity me! I am devilled Spam.* "For some reason people have this thing about Spam," says Mr Cho. "There's something intrinsically funny about it—just saying the word is enough to make people laugh." Four out of five contributions make fun of Spam, but a minority are simple celebrations. *At three cans of Spam, wrote one American Spamku-ist: But there's still room for Jello*

I love this country! As a cliché and sophisticated newspaper, the Independent is keen to further the art and appreciation of Spamku. We therefore announce Britain's first Spamku poetry competition. Only proper *haiku*-form work, offered in a spirit of homage to Spam, will be considered. The runner-up will win a year's supply of pork luncheon meat and the winner will be awarded a week's supply. Entries should be sent to the Independent and marked: *Pork Luncheon Meat Poetry Festival.*

Housing future: The sceptred isle is also a crowded one. Can room be made for 4.4 million more households?



Past and present: The same tract of land before and after Milton Keynes was built

Home alone: a nightmare for urban planners

CLARE GARNER

The tendency for people to remain single for longer than they used to has been identified as one of the reasons for an unprecedented growth in the number of one-man or one-woman households in Britain. The Secretary for the Environment, John Gummer, launching a national accommodation debate yesterday, linked the increase in single households and marriage break-ups to record demand for extra housing. He tried to focus debate on how to supply the 4.4 million new houses his department estimates Britain will need in the next 20 years. Almost 80 per cent—about 3.5 million—of these homes will be occupied by just one person, according to his department's household projections for the years to 2016. Mr Gummer told the Royal Town Planning Institute's annual conference in Brighton: "Even if, like me, you deplore

the damage done to family life, and the institution of marriage, you cannot ignore the consequences or hope they will go away. "All of us need to face them squarely. They mean more homes needed. "They mean a demand for more space, greater pressure to build in the countryside, to expand in the towns, to increase density and live more handily for work and play." He looked forward to a frank discussion about the social and environmental effects of the single way of life. Such a debate should embrace churches, businesses, social organisations, local and national governments, Mr Gummer proposed. "We need to admit that, in many instances, government's role is not a central factor," he said. "The forces at work are deep-rooted cultural changes which have been evolving for generations. These are susceptible to influence only if the whole society began to feel that a radical new direction were

needed." The department's projections, published in March last year, are that the number of households in Buckinghamshire and Cambridgeshire will almost double in the next two decades, while the number in Wiltshire, Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire rises by 30 to 40 per cent. Residents of Hampshire, London, Manchester, and Yorkshire can expect the largest increase in households, with more than 160,000 new homes in each area. Mr Gummer emphasised yesterday that he would protect the green belt "because people need that absolute security. But we have to ask how we are going to work within those limitations." He did not, however, rule out more Milton Keynes-style new towns, commenting: "Whatever the solutions, they are going to be tough." Households have shrunk over recent decades. In 1961 there were four to five people



Rural idyll: A countryman in the canal lock, his wife looking on. Life rolls gently on in Marsworth, Buckinghamshire

Photograph: Edward Sykes

per household, a figure that fell to 2.47 in 1991 and is tipped to decline to 2.17 in 2016. The make-up of the households has dramatically altered, too. In 1991 England had 19.2 million households in England, of which 55 per cent were occupied by married couples and 27 per cent by one person. By 2016 there are expected to be 23.6 million households, when those occupied by single 42 per cent of them composed of married couples and 36 per cent of singles. On present trends, less than 20 per cent of all households will be occupied by nuclear families. To discourage this trend, Mr Gummer said social housing policies should favour married couples.

The Council for the Protection of Rural England hit back at Mr Gummer yesterday, saying that, unless he tackled the central failure of his Government's policy to serve either "those in need (or) the countryside", his "national debate" would rule out key questions before it began.

The national conservation body criticised what it called the household projections dominated the debate? What about the issues of affordable housing, preserving the countryside and urban regeneration?" He warned of the consequences of unrestrained development on the nation's landscape: "If we build in the future as we have in the past and we meet the 4.4 million figure, this will involve developing an area of countryside larger than Greater London by 2016."

He warned of the consequences of unrestrained development on the nation's landscape: "If we build in the future as we have in the past and we meet the 4.4 million figure, this will involve developing an area of countryside larger than Greater London by 2016."

Warding off the predators

CLARE GARNER

More than half-a-century ago, residents at two villages were promised that an airfield would be turned back to farmland at the end of the Second World War. But, fifty years on, they have abandoned such dreams to concentrate instead on the business of warding off bids to build hundreds of houses there. Far from enhancing the villages, the disused land at Marsworth Camp could potentially destroy a rural style of life which has been cherished by locals since the days of the Domesday Book. In her twelve years as clerk to Marsworth parish council, in Buckinghamshire, Sylvia Frost has encountered several land-

hungry developers. Most recently, Skimmed Milk Suppliers Limited applied to build 100 residential dwellings on the property. The application was thrown out by the local district council (Aylesbury Vale) and has now gone to appeal, leaving villagers nervously awaiting Mr Gummer's response. Local opinion is unanimous: the consequences of developing the airfield site, situated between the two Hertfordshire villages, Long Marston and Marsworth, would wipe out both communities at a stroke. The obvious problem would be the terrific increase in traffic on the narrow country lanes and canal bridges. What is now

a peaceful amble over the canal could become a hazardous venture. Mrs Frost explained the traditional routine: "Marsworth has a very narrow bump-back canal bridge over which only one car can pass at a time. Villagers walk over it to get to the canal. There are all sorts of plans for traffic lights and hatching on the side of the road for pedestrians but, I mean, this is a little, rural community. It's totally unsafe." There is also the toll such an influx of residents would take on the fabric of the community. "Where would these people go to? Who would they get with?" asked Mrs Frost. "There's no one in the village who objects to newcomers, but

if we have 100 houses we're going to have 200 people all at once. That's an awful lot of people to absorb into a community at one go. It will either be a separate settlement or it could set a precedent for everything to be joined together. We would become another Aylesbury or Tring or something. That would be a tragedy." The situation is similar in Long Marston, where Rick Williams, chairman of planning for Tring rural council, is fighting the case for the village. "We don't feel there is the need for the housing. There are a lot of houses up for sale around our way. Whatever house you want you can have—at a price. But the other lot will cost you too."

Media giants in billion-pound battle for Premier League deal

MATTHEW HORSMAN
and PATRICK TOOPER

Three media giants—Lord Hollick's MAI-United, Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB and a consortium comprising Mirror Group and Carlton—yesterday delivered sealed bids to the Premier League for the right to broadcast top football in the UK. BSkyB's bid was handed over late last night, after last-minute consultations by telephone between BSkyB chief executive Sam Chisholm and Mr Murdoch. The two men made a final decision on the amount of the bid, which included the option of a cheeky low-ball offer. MAI, which had kept its plans highly secret, is now known to be bidding on its own, offering between £150m and £200m a year over 10 years.

Mirror/Carlton was also thought to be offering as much as £1bn over five years for the exclusive live broadcast rights. The 20 club chairman in Coventry this morning to review the offers, and could pick a winner as early as tomorrow. Some club executives had to return to the UK from holidays and business abroad, including Alan Sugar, the chairman of Tottenham Hotspur, who flew in from Greece late last night. The crucial two-day meeting takes place just before the launch of the Euro 96 football championship at Wembley on Saturday. The current contract with BSkyB, which expires next year, was worth about £60m a year to the Premier League. But the runaway success of top football, and the prospect of billions of pounds from the broadcast of

matches on a pay-per-view basis in a few years' time, have together boosted the price-tag for the exclusive rights—probably by a factor of three. "We always knew the price was going to go through the roof," said one leading media analyst yesterday. A source close to MAI added: "Top club Manchester United only made £2.5m [from TV] last year—about the same BSkyB gets in daily revenues." BSkyB was still given the edge last night, thanks to its four-year record of broadcasting Premier League matches and its deep pockets. Both MAI and Mirror/Carlton plan to broadcast the matches on cable and satellite. MAI has secured options on satellite transponders controlled by Nethold, one of Europe's leading pay-TV com-

panies. Mirror/Carlton was believed by industry observers to have failed in repeated attempts to secure satellite capacity in advance of tabling its offer. All three bidders are offering to share excess profits with the clubs. BSkyB has a controversial right to match any competing offer for the new contract, but lawyers for Mirror/Carlton and MAI have advised that this "pre-emption" clause is unenforceable. However, lawyers for BSkyB claim the clause is binding. The League's top clubs, including Manchester United, are believed to prefer a short-term contract of no more than three years. They want to reserve the right to renegotiate once digital TV is introduced in the UK, providing the scale needed for pay-per-view. Crumbling alliance, page 23

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صيانة الـ 4100

Police chief on attack against England footballers and the FA

STEVE BOGGAN

The man in charge of policing the Euro 96 championships yesterday criticised the behaviour of both the English team and the Football Association.

Only three days before the kick-off of one of Britain's biggest ever sporting events, Malcolm George, Assistant Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, said last week's allegations of criminal damage

against England players on board a Cathay Pacific jet as they returned from a Far East tour "did not help" his role in heading off football hooliganism.

Reprimanding the soccer establishment, Mr George said a change in FA ticketing policy could lead to a violent breakdown of plans to segregate fans. He was speaking after the FA confirmed that unsold tickets for the tournament would be

available on matchdays to fans in the eight cities hosting the championships. Privately, officers said that the policy effectively reversed an assurance that tight controls would be imposed on ticket sales to enable police to enforce strict segregation of rival supporters.

Coupled with the availability of tickets on the black market, the latest move would mean police would have to expect "free association" of rival

fans on the terraces. "We are concerned because we supported the policy of segregation," said Mr George. "The implications of free association [among fans] are significant because of the potential for violence. It means we will have to be more vigilant, more aware and more skilful." Any breakdown in order would result in the deployment of riot police.

The FA was understood to be holding an emergency meeting yesterday afternoon, but it is reasonable to assume that Mr George's comments about the England players will have been conveyed to senior officials.

On the ticketing issue, a spokesman said last night that the FA would continue to co-ordinate its ticket policy with the police. However, it appeared that tickets would still be sold on match days.

Meanwhile, the courts were yesterday accused of operating a policy of preventative detention when six football fans were remanded in custody on charges of violent disorder.

A lawyer representing one of the suspects said after the hearing that the remands were "politically motivated" by the start of Euro 96 and that he would appeal against them. Among those locked up were a 17-year-old boy accused of throwing three lit pieces and an 18-year-old who gave himself up.

Seven fans were arrested in high-profile dawn raids by police in London and Essex on Tuesday. They were part of a series of arrests around the country of alleged hooligans in advance of the championships, which begin on Saturday.

James Nichol, a respected civil liberties lawyer, who represented the 17-year-old, said after yesterday's hearing that he believed a policy of preventative detention was in force. "We are

dealing with a 17-year-old boy who allegedly threw three coins. He is not a member of a gang, he is not a member of a right-wing racist group - he went there with his friend who is black - and he does not regularly attend football matches.

"I believe he would not normally be remanded in custody for an offence like this. I will be appealing to the Crown Court on Friday to have him released on bail."

Complex problems: Concerns over financial past of consortium head who won go-ahead for ambitious leisure project

Ally Pally developer is a £1m bankrupt

PAUL FIELD

The businessman chosen to redevelop Alexandra Palace in north London is an undischarged bankrupt with debts of around £1m.

Derek Sheldon, 51, who was declared bankrupt in July 1994, has put together the Alexandra Palace 1999 consortium to develop a leisure complex at the birthplace of BBC Television.

His proposal, which includes a multiplex cinema and a broadcasting museum, is backed by construction group Alfred McAlpine and Pillar, a property investment company. The development has been billed by Haringey Council, trustees of the palace, as an important step towards securing the long term future of the 123-year-old site, which faces losses of £55m.

However, Mr Sheldon, who describes himself as both chairman of the consortium and project manager, denies suggestions that his financial problems affect his position. "All I lost in 1994 was my money, not my vision," he said. "I do not underestimate that this fact will be

used by our opponents. Quite clearly it is unfortunate, but it is not significant."

However, Malkins, solicitors for the trust, have written to the board of trustees, voicing concerns about Mr Sheldon. Last night, a Haringey councillor, who would not be named, claimed that the authority failed to investigate the financial background of Mr Sheldon. "This is typical of their ham-fisted approach to Ally Pally. I am not surprised at all at their selection of a bankrupt as developer."

Questions have arisen about whether Mr Sheldon has the experience to run the project, but he refutes them. One achievement he lays claim to as a leisure developer is the prestigious Loch Lomond Golf Course.

He was a director from 1987 to 1990 of developers Stirling Investments, but the company ran out of money, leaving debts of £3.5m, and administrators were called in when only two holes had been turned. After Stirling Investments collapsed, Mr Sheldon set up Golf and Leisure International, which



Making plans: Derek Sheldon refutes questions over his ability to see through the Ally Pally redevelopment

Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

was wound up by Customs and Excise two years later. He then developed three bowling alleys in Scotland and one in Harlow, all of which were later sold and the companies involved dissolved.

Last night, Haringey reiterated its support for the Ally Pal-

ly development and said the companies involved were being assessed. A spokesman for Alfred McAlpine said: "McAlpine and Pillar will carry the project through. We do not know it what will mean for Mr Sheldon and his future involvement." Pillar has reassured Haringey of

its commitment to the development, but was unavailable for comment last night.

Until now, any development has been prevented because liability for the £55m debt had not been resolved. However, last month Haringey accepted liability for £50m after its

chief executive, Gurbux Singh, received a letter from the Treasury Solicitor accusing the council of failing to provide evidence to prove expenditure was properly incurred.

The £11.8m bid for the 125-year palace lease, drawn up by Mr Sheldon, was chosen last

week. He said: "It is very ambitious, but the response from leisure operators has been such that we could let the available space twice over." The project will need to be approved by the Charity Commission, a public planning inquiry and eventually Parliament.

Drivers quick to blame others

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR
Transport Correspondent

Three-quarters of all drivers involved in road accidents believe that their crash was someone else's fault, according to new research by the AA.

Dr Wyn Hughes, who carried out the survey, said that if drivers could recognise their own failings, the number of accidents could be reduced.

Dr Hughes, a transport researcher for Cambridge County Council, studied 800 accidents on single carriageway "A" roads in Cambridgeshire.

He found that four out of five drivers involved in the accidents were men, though women make up 37 per cent of all drivers.

Wide open roads recommended by the Department of Transport were found to be more dangerous than ones where there are bends.

The research suggests that there are 50 per cent more accidents on roads where drivers can see 580 metres ahead - the Department's standard for good visibility.

The study found no simple association between traffic density and the accident rate. It also dispelled some myths about driving on country roads.

Tractors and agricultural equipment were rarely found to be the cause of accidents. And all, but 2 per cent of drivers involved in accidents in rural areas were local people familiar with the roads. Indeed, it seems that those who do not know smaller roads so well exercise more caution when using them.

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Education methods: Professor clashes with traditionalists over interpretation of study showing benefits of Far East teaching

Going back to the future 'is wrong'

FRAN ABRAMS and JUDITH JUDD

Traditionalists who hope to use an academic's research to force a return to the teaching methods of the 1950s are wrong.

Professor David Reynolds, author of the research showing the benefits of whole-class maths teaching, said yesterday he did not want to see a return to the past. His comments followed as the chief inspector of schools, Chris Woodhead, said schools should turn their backs on modern lessons based on group work.

Prof Reynolds, whose research on mathematics teaching showed that British eight year-olds lagged behind their peers in Taiwan and Hong Kong, said schools should not drop interactive teaching.

Since his research on Taiwan

was featured in the *Independent* last year, both ministers and government advisers have praised the teaching methods used in the Far East.

Yesterday Gillian Shephard, Secretary of State for Education and Employment, and Mr Woodhead visited Barking and Dagenham, east London, where similar methods adopted from European countries are used.

Prof Reynolds, of the University of Newcastle, said: "There is no evidence to support what the traditionalists are saying about the effectiveness of whole-class instruction. It is whole-class interactive instruction that is the key. Going reactively towards whole-class instruction is as silly as going to group work as a reaction against whole-class teaching."

His report on Britain's maths performance over the last 25

years will be published by the Office for Standards in Education later this month.

Prof Reynolds said more research was needed on what methods worked, and its findings should be incorporated in teacher training courses.

His report will say that low proportion of whole-class teaching in Britain's schools is not the only reason for low standards. British teaching methods are also too complicated.

They can cause "chaos" with teachers switching from whole-class teaching to groups based on ability in one subject to a mixed-ability group in another.

Another complication is that there may be several adults, such as parents and classroom assistants, in a classroom whom the teacher has to manage.

The report will also emphasise that some of the reasons for

Taiwanese success are cultural, not educational. Taiwanese pupils are more successful because their culture is geared to hard work.

Mr Woodhead and Mrs Shephard said the Barking and Dagenham experiment, which uses whole-class maths teaching in primary schools, should lead to the methods spreading.

Mr Woodhead said: "I was very impressed by what I saw. The pupils we observed were concentrating intensely."

Labour's promise to reduce class sizes to no more than 30 for five- to seven-year-olds was underscored yesterday by Estelle Morris, a frontbench education spokeswoman. She told the Commons that primary education had always been treated as the "cinderella" and it was time the disparity with the secondary sector was tackled.



Maths test: The Education Secretary Gillian Shephard in Dagenham yesterday

Photograph: Edward Sykes

Pupils eager to learn in Taiwan

FRAN ABRAMS

When the teacher enters a Taiwanese classroom some of the pupils are already working, finishing off earlier lessons. Within 45 seconds they are all paying attention, facing the front and ready to begin work.

The teacher explains an element of arithmetic, using a cake to demonstrate division, for example. The lesson is fast-moving and even slightly anarchic, with several children shouting at once in answer to a question.

All the children are fully involved, coming up to the front to give their answers and writing them on the board. Sometimes six or seven of the 40-plus pupils in the class are on their feet.

Once or twice during the 40-minute lesson, the teacher asks the pupils to do a sum in their text books, but within a few minutes the whole class has completed the task and is facing the teacher again. But for

at least nine tenths of the time, the teacher talks.

While the pupils have their heads down she walks up and down the neat rows of desks, picking out the slower pupils for a little extra help. In some classes, every child waits until the last one has finished a piece of work before moving on.

A class of seven-year-olds might be found doing number work just as they might in London or Manchester, but they would concentrate on basic sums rather than on the ways in which they might be applied. And the Taiwanese pupils are ahead of their British counterparts. Large quantities of subject matter are covered in a single lesson.

Parents of middle- and low-achieving children in Taiwan are usually very happy with the system, which aims to bring everyone up to a minimum standard. Those with very bright children tend to feel less happy because pupils with problems can expect to get more of the teacher's attention.

Saddle-weary commuters left with a sore deal

Stressed cyclists get little relief at the capital's sights, writes Ben Summers

Yesterday was Bike to Work Day, but the first thing you would have noticed if, like me, you were out to mark the occasion, is that cyclists have become something of a rare breed.

I had arrived at Paddington station at 8am, ready to tackle the streets and find out if the capital's attractions make any allowances for the those of us arriving on two wheels.

I soon learned why few cyclists venture out here: London's streets are unforgiving. Just 200 yards down the road from the station I was nearly sandwiched between curb and car.

Perhaps drivers would treat me with a little more respect if I were an MP. I moved. So I took myself off to Covent Garden to see if this was true. There, I found forty honourable members diligently loading up on free croissants in preparation for the 1996 MPs' Bike Ride.

As they pushed off, the group quickly took on the appearance of a cycle protest, forming a thick knot of bicycles. No one wanted to be at the back; everyone wanted to lead. Thus did a clump of MPs make their unsteady way to Parliament, ties fluttering in the breeze.

Thus hooded angrily, motorists cut across and civil servants scowled. Who were these mad men and why were they blocking up Whitehall?

The convoy arrived at the House and the bikes were taken away in a large white van. The parliamentary bike rack, after all, only has space for 35.

Yet 35 turns out to be a fairly healthy allowance. On my subsequent bicycle tour of the capital, only the British Museum could top it, with parking available for 36.

The Royal Academy has just two orange hoops on to which four early-bird visitors can chain their treads. It is left to the railings outside for the rest.

Bottom of the high-culture, low-cycle-tolerance league is the National Gallery. As I arrived, a white-haired gentleman was

locking his bike on to the only available lamppost on that side of Trafalgar Square.

The man at the gallery's reception desk said there was no official cycle space for visitors. Furthermore, a passing traffic warden warned me that it would be a bad idea to lock anything to anything on the other side of the Square. This is the edge of the centre's "ring of steel".

Would my bike be clamped if I locked it there? No, but it would be reported to the police and they would come, cut the lock and cart it off to the pound. Suitably chastened, I pedalled off in search of some light

Bicycle facts

If one-third of all short car journeys were made by bike, heart disease rates would fall by five to 10 per cent.

In a city, a large car is 85 times less energy-efficient than a bike.

200 cyclists die on British roads each year (of whom 20 are killed in London).

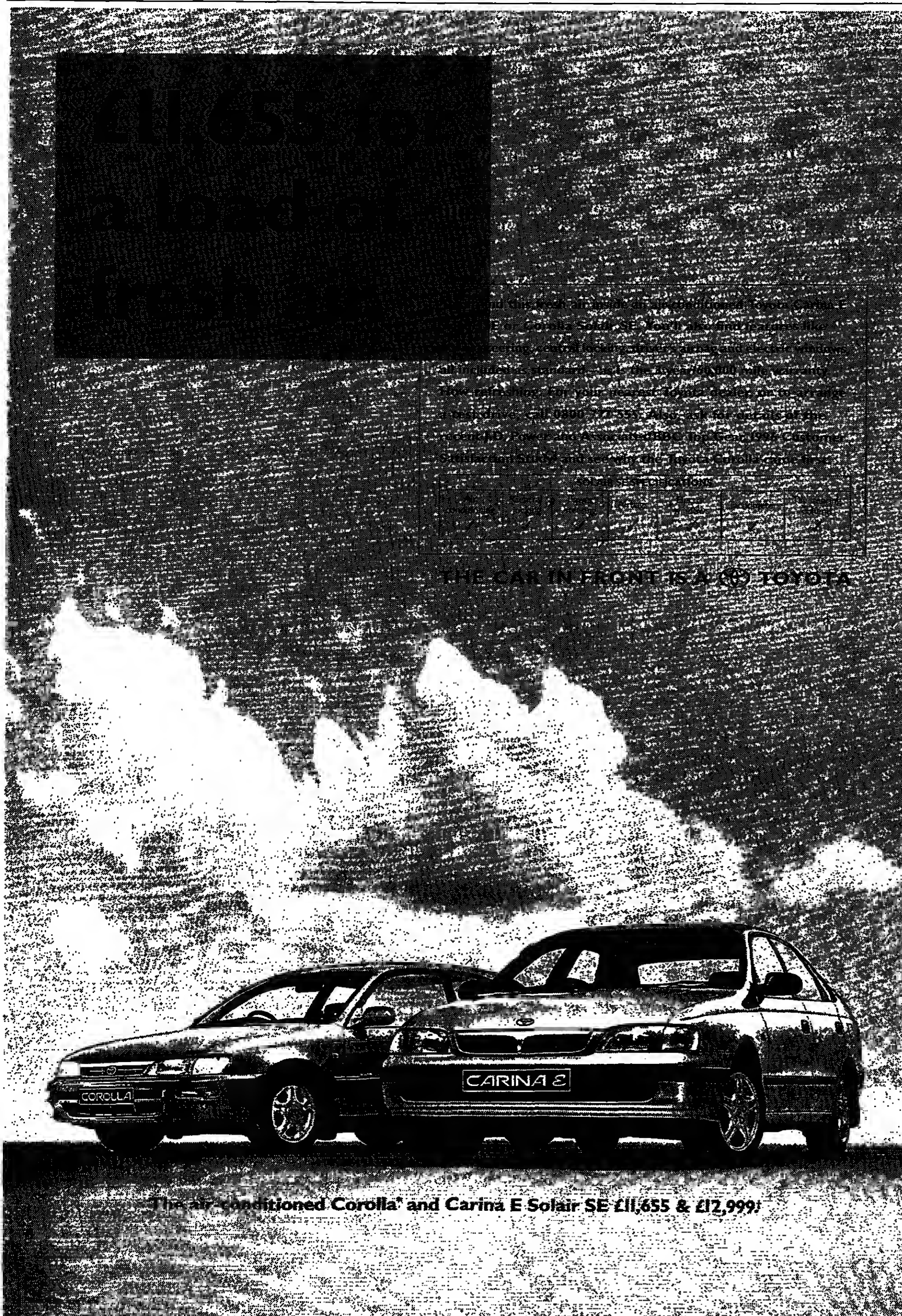
Cyclists are at fault in 25 per cent of collisions with a motor vehicle; motorists are at fault in 57 per cent.

refreshment. Le Meridien hotel, Piccadilly, looked tempting, but bikes could not be housed on the premises. The Café Royal nearby did, however, have space.

The Ritz did not put on a bike rack but there is apparently little demand. One would have to find a railing, suggested the doorman, or he could keep an eye on it for a short while.

It seems the car still rules in the capital. Apart from stage-managed MPs, there were more cycle couriers to be seen than cycle commuters yesterday.

Still, as I jammed my bike back into the train at Paddington, apologising as I went, I reflected that there are some ordeals which are spared to the purest of bike-to-work purists.



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صبراً من الراحل

The Referendum Party

The Question

The Referendum Party welcomes the Referendum Bill to be brought before the House of Commons on Tuesday, 11th June, by cross-party pro-referendum MPs.¹

In the Bill, the wording for the proposed Ballot paper for the referendum is:

Preamble:

The United Kingdom Government, as a continuing member of the European Community and the European Union, is in the course of negotiations for the revision of the Treaty of European Union.

The Question:

"DO YOU WANT THE UNITED KINGDOM TO PROPOSE AND INSIST ON IRREVERSIBLE CHANGES IN THE TREATY ON EUROPEAN UNION SO THAT THE U.K. RETAINS ITS POWERS OF GOVERNMENT AND IS NOT PART OF A FEDERAL EUROPE NOR OF A EUROPEAN MONETARY UNION, INCLUDING A SINGLE CURRENCY?"

This question addresses the fundamental national issue: do the people wish the UK, as a continuing member of the EU, to be part of a European federal superstate into which Europe's nations would be merged. Or, do they insist that the UK be a continuing member of the EU which would be a family of sovereign nations with institutions based on the principle of political co-operation. That is to say a Europe of Nations.

A Referendum is necessary because the leadership of the Labour and Lib-Dem parties embrace, with enthusiasm, the concept of a federal Europe. For its part, the Government, despite its words, has allowed the accelerating transfer of national sovereignty to Brussels. So electors have never been granted a choice.

The government is not credible when it claims that

there will be no federal Europe for so long as it is in power.

This is the government that agreed and signed the federalist Treaty of Maastricht and forced it through Parliament. Its members in the European Parliament are allied to a party, the European People's Party, whose written proposals state: "Our aim is a Union built on the principles of federalism". In other words, it proposes a federal European superstate.

As Britain's foremost constitutionalist, A.V. Dicey, wrote: "the main use of the Referendum is to prevent the passing of any important Act which does not command the sanction of the electors".² "The Referendum supplies... the best, if not the only possible, check upon ill-considered alterations in the fundamental institutions of the country".³

If you wish to become a supporter of The Referendum Party please write to:

Dean Bradley House, 52 Horseferry Road, Westminster, London SW1P 2AF

Tel: 0181-563 1155. Fax: 0181-563 1156. (After June 13th) Tel: 0171-227 8500. Fax: 0171-227 8519.

1. Referendum Bill to be introduced by William Cash MP. 2. Dicey A.V. Introduction to the Study of the Law of the Constitution: 8th Edition, London, 1920, p xcii. 3. Dicey A.V. "Ought the Referendum to be introduced in England", Contemporary Review, Vol LVII, April 1890, p 505.

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RCA exam dispute: Hockney sends message of support to photography 'failures' as exhibitors withdraw work from annual show

Students call for resignation of course director

DAVID LISTER

Students on the Royal College of Art MA photography course yesterday called for the resignation of their course director following an unprecedented number of failures on the course.

As revealed in the *Independent* last week, more than a quarter of the students on the photography course at the RCA failed to satisfy the examiners, opening up the debate of to what extent photographs should be seen as art. The external examiner was Michael Collins, a former picture editor of the *Daily Telegraph* magazine.

As an exhibition of successful students' work opened this week, students took their work down from the walls in solidarity with their failed colleagues. And David Hockney, himself a former student at the RCA, visited the show and sent the students a message of support.

Hockney wrote to them: "Make your own (diploma). It will be as meaningful as the RCA's. It's only dentists and accountants who give you confidence when you see their

diplomas on the wall. They take all that too seriously here. I thought your show's very good. Whatever you do, don't let them keep you in after school."

Yesterday the students on the course issued a statement unanimously demanding the resignation of Michael Langford, the course director. In their statement the students said: "The results of the final examination were entirely unexpected. Students were given no prior notice of their impending failure."

They called for the resignation of the director of the photography course and a reassessment for the entire graduating year and validity of the examination procedure.

Ironically, some of the failed students found their work in the catalogue the RCA was handing out to members of the public yesterday. One failed student said: "I have been given no reason at all. I've spent two years working on this and have been given nothing but encouragement from visiting lecturers and academic staff..."

Last night, Christopher Fraying, pro-rector of the Roy-

al College of Art, gave his first comments on the dispute. He said: "In the final examinations for photography two students failed and two students were referred. The two referred students will be re-examined. The two failed students' appeals will be heard. We will look at whether everything was conducted correctly, whether there have been any procedural anomalies. But the appeal is strictly not on the work."

Mr Fraying added: "I don't see this as an issue of principle at all. It's about individual students. By their work shall they be judged."



Artless: Four exhibits from the Royal College of Art photography-degree show (clockwise from left) - Lisbon 1995 by Anthony Coleman; Ichiro Kono's untitled image of leaves; Brothers by Jacqueline Pearson; and Traffic Jam by David Berton

Dire images and confusion in a show with no art

Can photography be art? Judging by this year's entrants to the Royal College of Art's annual degree show, I think not.

If photography is to be taught at a school of art such as the RCA then art is what should be produced. Referring only to the degree-show catalogue, I am quite frankly appalled at the quality of the final exhibits. If this is the best that can be done after a two-year course might I suggest some of the students (and their lecturers) think about another form of employment.

Traffic Jam (nice pun) failed, and I am not surprised. The pun is humorous but the image is dire. Perhaps a turn at the Comedy Store.

Lisbon 1995. Also failed. Now I quite like this picture, again a level of humour (sadly lacking in a lot of contemporary photography) but it's not art whether you use an upper or lower case "A". If this photograph had been part of a set on a photo-journalism course, such as at Cardiff or the London College of Printing, it would have passed.

Here we have the problem. The RCA photography degree course is assessed by a former newspaper-picture editor and not someone from an arts background; so, maybe he is looking for "Art" while the students are trying for journalistic images. Confusion for all.

The image of leaves, I presume, for there is no title, passed. Now, I am broad-



Brian Harris, Independent photographer, assesses the RCA's degree exhibits

minded, but please, give me a break - pretentious or what? It looks like a wind-up - or should that be a wind-up? - when the camera was loaded with film. *Brothers*, by Jacqueline Pearson, passed and I am pleased for her. A sensitive, dare I say beautiful image which I am sure is sharp in the original because it isn't in the catalogue, or perhaps the softness makes it artistic. In any event, the most charming photographic image in the book.

I feel sad when I see work such as these images exhibited. What a waste of two years. I am an editorial-news photographer and have been a visiting lecturer at the RCA. I regard my work as a craft. But having seen this year's RCA winners and losers I may have to reassess my own work and start wearing a smock and beret.

'Saigon' in the wars over lack of misses

The West End stage musical *Miss Saigon* has encountered a crisis because the management cannot find any young oriental children for the show, writes David Lister.

The plot requires a tiny child of oriental appearance to play the role of the four-year-old daughter of a Vietnamese woman and an American serviceman.

The show's management has been alarmed to discover that advertisements in London's Chinatown for stage-struck children to star in the show have unnerved the local community. "We've had little cards printed and handed out in China-

town, but they think you're pimping their children," said the show's children's casting director, Sam Hunter, yesterday. "There's certainly not a great theatre background in these communities. We've had terrible difficulties. I don't know what we are going to do. We can't cut the child," she said.

Since the show opened in 1989, 40 children from the Vietnamese, Thai, Chinese and Japanese communities to play the boy.

The licensing authorities have ruled that each one may work only 40 days a year and only two days a week.

The show now needs another five children. Despite many searches, it has found only one yet.

Miss Hunter said the show's producer, Sir Cameron Mackintosh, would not consider closing the show.

But he would look at lengthening the amount of time each child actor was retained in the musical.

Sir Cameron is throwing the theatre open all day on Saturday week to audition suitable children, who should be accompanied by a parent, Miss Hunter said.

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SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

The £1.5bn sell-off of MoD married quarters - one of the biggest "privatisations" ever - will be finalised after offers from four potential shortlisted purchasers are assessed, the Government confirmed yesterday.

But the Ministry of Defence has only been guaranteed a £100m share of the proceeds. The rest may disappear into the Treasury "pot of gold", amid widespread speculation that the true purpose of the deal is to create a massive windfall to fund tax cuts.

The plans have outraged servicemen and their families, a number of members of the House of Lords, including Field Marshal Lord Bramall, who called them a "national disgrace", and MPs of all parties.

Under the scheme, the MoD will retain the freehold on the 60,000 married quarter houses on 800 sites across England and Wales, but leases them for 999 years. The MoD's Defence Housing Executive will retain control over the properties for as long as it requires them, and pay rent to the lessee. The Government will therefore get a massive cash injection, while the lessee gets a guaranteed income from a reliable source. The MoD also retains responsibility for maintenance of the properties. *Chris Bellamy*

One parents may be refused all benefits relating to first-time claims, unless they agree to co-operate with the Child Support Agency, under plans being considered by ministers.

And for those already on benefit who adopt an approach of "passive avoidance" and simply refuse to fill in the forms or co-operate at all with the agency, ministers may double the present benefit deduction to £20 a week and make it indefinite.

The ideas were bitterly attacked yesterday by the National Council for One Parent Families and the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, which told MPs on the Commons social security committee that the first idea would "reduce women with children to destitution for their unwillingness to seek maintenance". Increasing deductions would put the welfare of children "at serious risk", the association added. *Nicholas Timmins*

Railtrack faces prosecution if it fails to comply with safety demands to improve the condition of the track outside Euston station, it was warned yesterday.

In evidence to the all-party Commons committee on transport, Stan Robertson, chief inspecting officer of the railways, working on behalf of the Health and Safety Executive, said there had been "failures in the Railtrack system" that led to the track condition deteriorating so badly that immediate improvements were necessary.

Thousands of commuters and long-distance travellers have faced lengthy delays because of the condition of the track in recent months, and in March, the HSE took the rare step of issuing an improvement notice, giving Railtrack a year to carry out the work. Mr Robertson said the HSE was monitoring the situation "regularly but not monthly", an answer which did not appear to satisfy the MPs, who pressed him to be more specific. *Christian Wolmar*

Victims' relatives should be legally represented at hearings to decide when murderers are freed from prison, according to the Commons home affairs select committee, which also confirmed its view that the Home Secretary should no longer play any part in deciding when to release convicted killers.

However, members had not changed their view that the mandatory life sentence should remain for all murders - resisting pleas from the senior judiciary, peers and lawyers for its abolition. *Heather Mills*

The Europe Debate: Were expectations of success for policy of non-cooperation over-optimistic?

Cabinet struggle to preserve unity

DONALD MACINTYRE
Political Editor

Yesterday's headline statement by Jacques Santer, the European Commission President, that Britain's "absurd" disruption of crucial business had no place in a Union based on the rule of law and solidarity, will send tremors through a Cabinet which had, at least temporarily, united around the policy of non-cooperation.

It is not what most ministers claimed to expect and at least one senior Cabinet minister was musing yesterday, before hearing the news from Brussels, that the policy was working well. Not only, the minister insisted, had our European partners well understood the tactic, but it had helped to concentrate minds and stood every chance of leading eventually to the solution Britain wanted, a realistic programme for lifting the best tax.

The calculation, the minister explained, was that at present the strategy was little more than an irritant for our partners; but they were keenly aware that if it went on until October it would seriously begin to foul up EU business. And this the partners were anxious to avoid.

That suddenly looks an over-optimistic prognosis. It may be that it will simply lead to a spate of clandestine negotiation which will end - possibly as soon as the Florence summit in three weeks - in a deal. But to understand how the varying ministerial forces will now deploy in response to the President's spectacular piece of brinkmanship, it is necessary first to see how it was arrived at.

It has recently become clear that Alastair Goodlad, the Tory Chief Whip, played a prominent part in ensuring senior ministers signed up to John Major's decision a fortnight ago to embark on non-cooperation.

It was not merely that Mr Goodlad was the Prime Minister that if Douglas Hogg, the Minister of Agriculture, went empty handed to announce to Parliament that Britain had failed to lift the beef derivatives ban but then added doggedly that things were being moved our way, he would be subjected to a mauling by Tory backbenchers.

It is also now clear that Mr Goodlad played some part in underlining the gravity of the situation to Kenneth Clarke, the

Watching the moves: Key players in the game of beating the ban



Alastair Goodlad, Chief Whip: Rapidly emerging as a key figure at John Major's side in the present crisis. Played a critical part in impressing a fortnight ago to Mr Major and other colleagues the hopelessness of allowing Douglas Hogg to be thrown to the wolves with nothing to report, except yet another rebuff in the battle to get the derivatives ban lifted. Especially sensitive to mainstream backbench opinion from Tory shire knights seriously unhappy about the beef ban and the Ministry of Agriculture's handling of the crisis. Will be pivotal in advising Mr Major over the impact of any deal on the Commons.

Malcolm Rifkind, Foreign Secretary: Although his background is broadly pro-European, has shown signs of moving towards the Eurosceptic centre of the party - for example, by opposing a single currency. Officials, instinctively wary of bust-ups with the EU, will be agitating for an early deal with Brussels. But how Rifkind responds to their advice will be crucial. Seen by disappointed pro-Europeans as one of a group of ministers - including Stephen Dorrell and William Waldegrave - reinventing themselves as sceptics with an eye to rightward party drift after the election. And for Dorrell and Rifkind, their own chances of leadership.

Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor: Consistent pro-European though not a man to shrink a bust up with the EU when necessary. He was persuaded swiftly a fortnight ago to back strategy but has also repeatedly emphasised it is a temporary tactic to realise an achievable goal. Would not want what Douglas Hurd has called protracted "trench warfare" with Europe. Other strong pro-Europeans such as Sir George Young, John Gummer and Sir Patrick Mayhew likely to take their lead from him. But remember Michael Heseltine - less publicly vociferous recently than Clarke but still as instinctively pro-European.

Michael Howard, Home Secretary: Has rapidly emerged as the leading Cabinet figure on the right in the debate over the future of Europe - even though Peter Lilley and Michael Portillo have in the past been assumed to take harder line than he does. Has serious Eurosceptic street cred as a long-time opponent of a single currency. Has been agitating for some form of constitutional measure to limit the reach of European law in Britain. Vetted 10 EU measures, with some relish, on Tuesday in accordance with non-cooperation. Has told friends he wants settlement but is expected to look at small print carefully.

Chancellor. There was a sort of running meeting at Downing Street on the morning of 21 May, with senior Cabinet members passing in and out of the room. But the Treasury has made no secret of the fact that Mr Clarke saw Mr Goodlad as well as Mr Major before giving his imprimatur to the strategy.

Part of Mr Goodlad's strength in this sort of crisis is that as a Major loyalist and politician with strong pro-European credentials, he can be converted of any hint of Eurosceptic posturing. Moreover, colleagues say he was worried that only about Eurosceptic criticism of the Government but about menacing grumbings from some of those mainstream Tory shire knights and others who have big farming constituencies and were unimpressed by the Ministry of Agriculture's handling of the

crisis. Sir Tom King, Sir Peter Hordern, Sir James Spence and the former Cabinet minister John MacGregor are all said to be in this group.

Mr Goodlad's word, therefore, weighed heavily with ministers - and not just Mr Clarke. Moreover, it is not that Mr Clarke has no stomach for a dust up with Europe, whatever his Eurosceptic critics may say. Moreover, he approved the strategy within hours, in contrast to the time it took to convert him to a commitment to a single currency referendum. But he would have been anxious to ensure that the strategy was necessary, and also to ensure that, by agreeing to it he was warding off more potentially self-destructive options such as withholding EU contributions.

He is also unlikely to want the tactic prolonged a moment longer than it has to be. And in this he no doubt has considerable support within the Cabinet. But here's the rub. For there are several on the right of the Cabinet who could be less intransigent to a long-drawn-out standoff and certainly would have countenanced sterner measures.

Take Michael Howard, for example. The Home Secretary has been promoting an explosive little Cabinet paper which would mean amending the 1972 European Communities Act to remove the obligation, and the right, of British courts to enforce European law. Mr Howard pointed out to his colleagues as the crisis built up last month that if enacted quickly that would actually help Britain defy the beef ban - for example by exporting beef to South Africa. A British court would no longer be able to rule against such action.

Against this background Mr Major faces his most testing time if, despite Mr Santer's comments yesterday, the EU finally offers some sort of framework for lifting the beef ban. If he holds out for better terms he risks alienating his Chancellor and his pro-European allies. If he accepts something too "lumpy" for the right, he risks fresh strife with the Eurosceptics.

Some senior Tories are warily saying that Labour could have a crucial role at this stage. If Tony Blair were tempted to draft an Opposition motion containing, for example, a blanket condemnation of the Government's handling of the beef crisis, Eurosceptic backbenchers angry at what they see as the inadequacy of the deal may be equally tempted to support him. Some senior Labour pro-Europeans would not like

him to do something as opportunistic; and it may not happen. The other crucial variable could be the role of Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary. His officials are already worried by the impact of non-cooperation on EU foreign policy. Blocking enlargement moves, or ministers for the forthcoming Bosnian elections, appeals some in the Foreign Office. But it does not follow that Mr Rifkind will head their advice.

The best bet must be that, despite all the pessimism engendered by Mr Santer's statement yesterday, Mr Major will succeed in forcing through a deal which falls well short of what the fervent Eurosceptics might want; and that all but the hardest-line backbenchers will sign up to it with varying degrees of reluctance. But it will be touch and go. *Letters, page 13*

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مكتبة الامم

Blair's top lawyer in backing for Howard

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES

Judges should keep their tanks off Parliament's lawn, a senior Labour politician declared yesterday. The curt warning to the judiciary to stay out of the political arena was delivered yesterday by Labour's Lord Chancellor-in-waiting, Lord Irvine, as he defended the right of the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, to put his controversial sentencing plans before Parliament.

Lord Irvine's pointed criticism came during a Lords' debate on the dangers of "judicial invasion of the legislative turf", which he himself had initiated. Senior judges have repeatedly criticised the Howard plans.

However, Labour backbenchers on the Home Affairs Select Committee yesterday hacked a bid to remove the Home Secretary's right to set tariffs for murderers serving mandatory life sentences and to decide whether or not they should be released.

Jack Straw, the shadow home secretary, pointedly declined to move from his previously held position that the Home Secretary's role should continue, although his office said last night that he would study the committee's report carefully.

In the debate, Lord Irvine said judges should not stray beyond their constitutional role as interpreters of enacted law. Referring to suggestions by some senior judges - including Lord Woolf, the new Master of the Rolls - that the courts might in exceptional cases hold invalid statutes duly passed by Parliament, Lord Irvine declared that such an action would

suggest "a judicial invasion of the legislature's turf."

This causes ordinary people not only to think that the judges might have got over and above themselves, but that perhaps they are exercising a political function in judicial review cases instead of simply upholding the rule of law," he said.

Setting out Labour's attitude to the judiciary for the first time in the Westminster forum, Lord Irvine also criticised the recent suggestion by the new Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham, that the courts might feel compelled to act to protect the individual's right to privacy if legislation was not forthcoming.

"It sounds to ordinary people uncomfortably like a judicial threat to legislate."

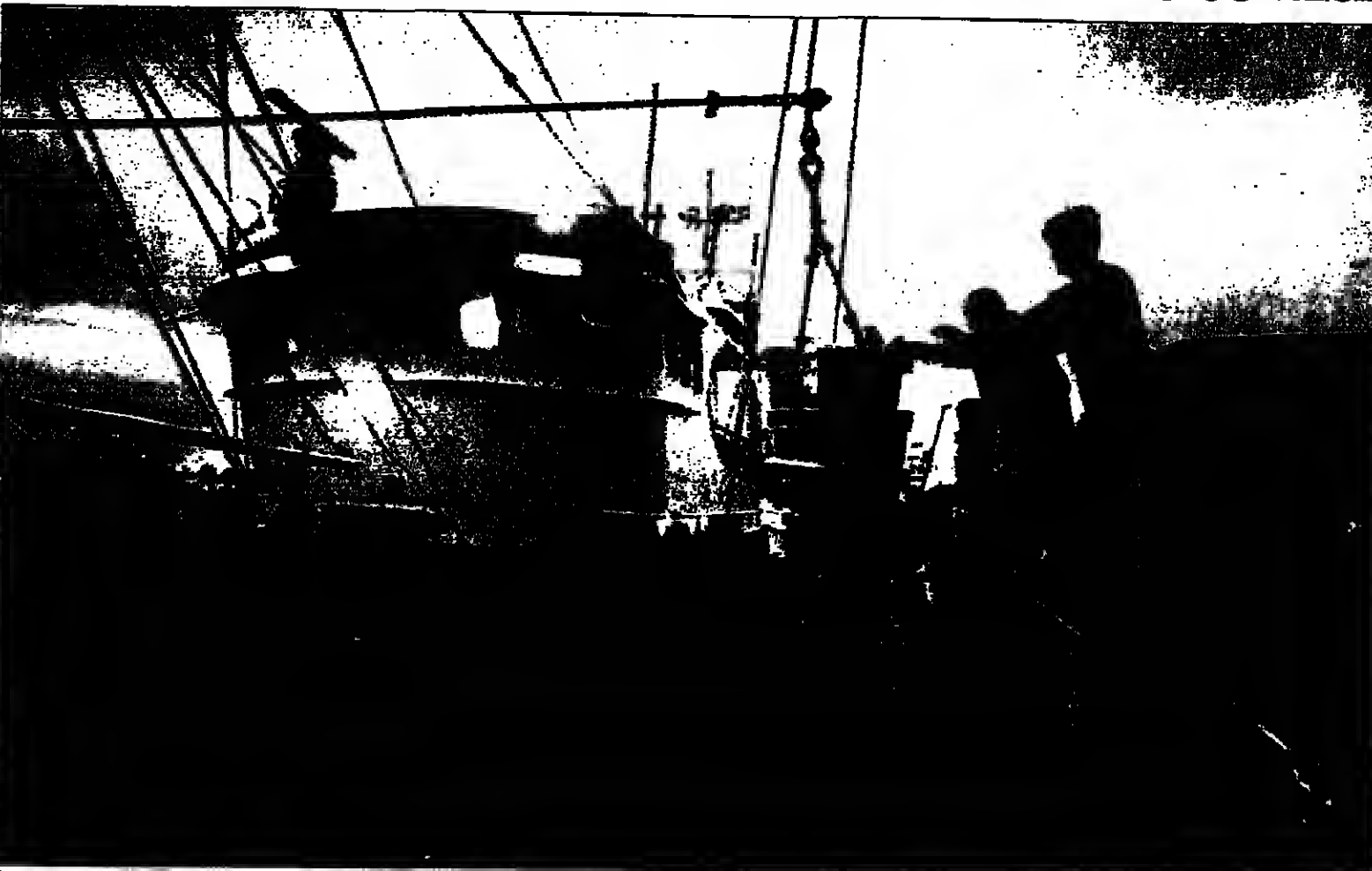
Judges could only do that if there was a "clear community consensus that way. If there is no such consensus, and I am sure there is none, then I say they would seem to be taking sides. The result would be to imperil their major asset, their reputation for impartiality."

As to Mr Howard's sentencing proposals, they were, as senior judges had declared, "ill-judged," he said. "The present Home Secretary gives every impression of playing politics with the administration of justice."

"But if Parliament were to legislate for these proposals then that would be neither unconstitutional nor prejudicial to the independence of the judiciary," he continued.

"It is only if self-restraint is displayed on both sides that the public will have confidence that the separation of power is alive and well and working."

Britain warns Brussels over 40% cut to fishing fleet



Vanishing world: Fishermen unloading their catch in Newlyn harbour, Cornwall

Photograph: Tom Pileston

Further cuts in the United Kingdom fishing fleet will be opposed until the European Commission tackles flag-of-convenience vessels fishing British waters, the Government warned last night.

To loud cheers from Tory E MPs in the Commons, the Fisheries minister Tony Baldry branded proposals to cut the UK fleet by up to 40 per cent "wholly unacceptable".

He said: "The EC cannot be surprised that the UK fishing industry is not and will not be prepared to contemplate any further substantial reductions in the UK fishing fleet until the commission address, tackle and deal, with the whole issue of quota hoppers."

Until "real and substantive progress was made in tackling quota hoppers, the Government was not ready to agree measures to reduce the UK fishing fleet further," he said.

The European Fisheries Commissioner Emma Bonino said last week that cuts of up to 40 per cent in the British fishing fleet might be necessary to conserve dwindling fish stocks.

But Mr Baldry stressed last night in the debate on a scheme to decommission fish vessels that the "crazy situation where Spanish-owned vessels 'masquerade' as British boats and caught fish against the national quota could not be allowed to continue."

Blair warned of rebellion on voting reform

COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

Tony Blair was warned by two former Shadow Cabinet members yesterday that he could face trouble from his own backbenchers if a Labour Government tried to push through legislation for reform of the House of Commons.

Roy Hattersley, the former deputy leader, and Gerald Kaufman, the former shadow Foreign Secretary, launched a campaign for "first-past-the-post" voting to be retained for Parliamentary and local elections.

Mr Kaufman said: "You have the bizarre possibility of a Labour Party, out of opposition after 18 years, asking its newly elected, victorious, triumphant, and exultant backbenchers to abolish their constituencies, which they have fought very hard to win."

"There are some members of the Shadow Cabinet who have voiced their support for proportional representation. I would be interested to know which of them would be willing to give up his seat to Alan Beith, Paddy Ashdown, or Menzies Campbell."

The clear message to Mr Blair was that many incoming Labour MPs would not vote for

any proportional representation Bill under a Labour Government.

Mr Kaufman said that if Labour had an overall majority of one after the General Election, introducing proportional representation for the Commons would require 34 Labour MPs to vote for the abolition of their own seats. Every Labour MP added to the majority would be expected to abolish his own seat, Mr Kaufman said.

Some key members of the First Past the Post Group believe a Blair government could be defeated, if it attempted to pass the legislation, through a combination of Labour rebellion and Tory opposition.

Mr Blair has stopped short of embracing electoral reform for the Commons, but Labour is committed to offering a referendum on PR. The group is mounting its campaign now, through trades unions and Labour constituencies, to reverse the pressure for PR.

Mr Hattersley said that in any system of PR there was domination by smaller parties.

"I joined the Labour Party to change the nature of society. That objective cannot be achieved by a coalition government and coalition governments are the inevitable outcome of PR."

Ashdown attacked on top earners' tax

COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

Labour last night accused Paddy Ashdown of using higher taxes as a "virility symbol" after the Liberal Democrat leader proposed tackling poverty by introducing a higher rate of tax of 50p in the pound for high earners.

The proposal to introduce the higher rate for those earning over £100,000 put pressure on Tony Blair to adopt a more radical policy on poverty. But Mike O'Brien, a Labour treasury spokesman, said: "Labour will never impose tax hikes for the sake of it. We have a responsibility to the British people to be prudent."

An estimated 750,000 low earners could be lifted out of tax

altogether with £1.1bn raised from the higher tax on about 120,000 taxpayers who earn top salaries. The Liberal Democrat policy on poverty - called a programme for a "helping hand" - echoed Labour's promise of a "hand up, not a hand out". But Labour has so far refused to commit itself to a higher rate of tax to pay for its plans.

Tory leaders attacked the proposal to raise taxes, but Liberal Democrat sources said their plans were modest compared to Germany (53 per cent on earnings over £27,000) or France (57 per cent on earnings over £27,000). Mr Ashdown said the pledge to raise taxes for those earning over £100,000 was part of his party's strategy of adopting a distinctive image.



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A taste of Italy: Nick Birch, Britain's only gondolier, tested the waters on the Regent's Canal in Little Venice, London, yesterday in *The Siren of Venice*; dedicated to 'pleasure and amusement', the gondola is available - with Mr Birch - for canal trips until Saturday Photograph: Nicholas Turpin

NHS 'rationing' to affect range of treatments

NICHOLAS TIMMINS
Public Policy Editor

Infertility treatments and a range of cosmetic plastic surgery procedures are becoming less available on the NHS, according to the latest survey of health authorities purchasing plans.

Some authorities are now "teetering on the edge" of more explicit rationing, proposing for example to exclude the treatment of warts and inpatient traction for acute back pain, the report from the National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts showed.

"More commissioners than ever... are listing procedures that they will not purchase unless clinical need can be demonstrated", according to the survey by Sharon Redmayne of the University of Bath.

Almost a quarter of authorities - 26 out of 110, an increase of more than 100 per cent on two years ago - now exclude at least some services unless clinical need can be demonstrated.

The most common exclusion is reversal of sterilisation - a position taken by 15 authorities -

with at least ten refusing to fund sex-change operations, reversal of vasectomy, in-vitro fertilisation, breast augmentation and nose reductions.

But while most of the procedures involve either infertility treatment or cosmetic procedures such as face-lifts, even these "rationed" procedures will usually be performed if a doctor makes an overriding case for them for a particular patient, the report says.

Some health authorities, however, are "teetering on the edge" of more explicit rationing. North West Anglia is considering excluding wart treatments. North and Mid Hampshire may end inpatient treatments for psychotherapy, chronic fatigue syndrome and complementary medicine.

Some authorities are resisting buying Beta-interferon, a new £10,000-a-year drug which reduces the frequency of relapses in some cases of multiple sclerosis, but does not affect the long-term course of the disease. Croydon has said it is unlikely to purchase it until better evidence of its effectiveness is available.

Others are reducing spending on ineffective procedures to boost treatments known to work - for example, reducing X-rays for back pain and some routine Caesareans, and aiming to concentrate on well-proven artificial hips rather than trying more modern, unproven ones. These changes, however, cannot be termed "rationing" as patients are not denied something from which they would benefit, the report says.

Many more authorities are now drawing up clinical protocols with doctors on how particular conditions should be treated, making clinical effectiveness a key determinant of purchasing decisions.

The report shows that health authorities are getting better at purchasing health care, shifting the emphasis from acute hospitals to primary care, but still changing "cautiously and incrementally".

There is, however, "much experimental innovation as commissioners pilot new ways of organising primary care".

Small Steps, Big Goals: Nahat, Vincent Drive, Birmingham B15 2SQ

Council 'uneasy' about Hamilton

Council officials had suspicions about a boys' club run by Thomas Hamilton, but lacked hard evidence to justify stopping him from hiring premises, the Dunblane inquiry heard yesterday.

Douglas Jeffrey, a youth and children's work development officer in Edinburgh, was sent to see Hamilton in May 1988.

He visited him at a club Hamilton ran at Linlithgow Academy, after a complaint from a parent whose son signed up for, but did not attend one of his summer camps, and who was being pressed for money by Hamilton.

Mr Jeffrey told the inquiry in Stirling that he was "uneasy" about Hamilton, who in March shot dead 16 pupils and their teacher at Dunblane primary school before killing himself.

Based on his investigation, a report recommended Hamilton's club be deregistered, but he said yesterday: "We did

not have enough hard evidence to withdraw the let."

Hamilton's club was discontinued at that venue anyway as the council needed the facilities. Lothian region only stopped the letting for good after finding out that Hamilton was being investigated by police about an incident at a camp.

Hamilton waged a campaign against the policeman who compiled a critical report on the camp at Loch Lomond after parents complained over conditions at the camp, and at the way Hamilton "chastised" the boys, smacking them across the bottom with a table-tennis bat.

PC Gunn, who has been exonerated by the inquiry, said he visited the camp on 20 July 1988, and found conditions poor, and the boys running around without trousers; Hamilton said jeans would get wet as the boys played on the shore.

The inquiry continues.

DAILY POEM

Shopworn Notions

By Miles Champion

Think of a lump as something always wadded-up.
An unexpected
fleck, & tastes pop up, as ondayant et divers as that
of sockeye, butters, line-of-sight, climbs up the
sides of a scalloped, forms a coincident
colligation of, hitherto, cockfights, described,
because I think of you, a sinusoidal pulse, dissolving
nodes. Squishy cubes of bickering quanta about
this vegetarian sense of aboutness.
You can dissolve a substance, but it only has meaning
in a sentence. But bemoaning this fact, like
my brain scoots out of me, fast as feeder ants, smells
of oranges that absorb all the stars & moon,
reflecting nothing back. Or just a way of, the successive
identities taken on, expirating (explicating) the
pleasing fancy which suddenly pitches forward.
Frothing speakers. Language as a way of grabbing
hold. An unfamiliar noise - sweet thing - & yet
familiar all the same. The pressure of light waves on
the eyeball, like an ultrathin cushion, which responds
to what can fruitfully be spun.

Miles Champion was born in Nottingham in 1968 and lives and works in London. He has performed his poetry in the United States and in Britain, participating in the 1995 Cambridge Conference of Contemporary Poetry. *Compositional Bonbons Placate*, published by Carcanet, is his first collection. Champion's preoccupations are language - as the notes here - "a way of grabbing hold" - in its babble, pitch and confusion. For reading out loud.

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France and Germany: Kohl and Chirac deny alliance is under strain over changing priorities in Paris, but shift their strategy

Britain to share in defence projects

MARY DEJEVSKY
Dijon

France and Germany yesterday acknowledged that their joint defence projects needed to be reassessed, a move that could open up the opportunity for three-way co-operation with Britain.

The reassessment reflects growing budgetary strains on both countries, and the impact of recent tensions over defence policy. They have also drafted a joint document on defence strategy to be finalised in six months' time.

The decisions, which follow months of Franco-German tension over France's proposed military and defence reforms, were taken during a meeting of the two countries' joint military council which met at the start of yesterday's summit in Dijon between President Jacques Chirac and Germany's Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Military and defence issues supplied the focus for yesterday's summit, which was presented by Mr Chirac as an occasion to bury

the hatchet after a period in which German officials have questioned France's commitment to joint projects and European co-operation on defence and security generally. A year ago Germany was surprised by Mr Chirac's decision to resume nuclear testing. This was followed by Mr Chirac's announcement to end conscription, and of swinging armaments cuts.

Opening yesterday's summit Mr Chirac said that any misunderstandings that might have arisen no longer existed. Afterwards, however, he said:

"Frankly, there was never any ill-feeling. He had earlier said that he wanted to 'disabuse' journalists that there was any problem in Franco-German relations. 'Nothing, I repeat nothing, will ever call this process [the Franco-German entente] into question,' he said, to nods from Chancellor Kohl."

The German leader took a different tack on the question of misunderstandings, acknowledging that "sometimes we have differences, but then we sit down



Crest of a wave: President Jacques Chirac (left) and Chancellor Helmut Kohl arriving at the summit in Dijon yesterday

Photograph: AFP

together and talk about them, as one would with one's children, wife or friends. Why should anyone think that there should be no differences between us?" But he insisted that Mr Chirac had told him of France's defence plans early on "in a friendly and correct manner".

On the subject of bilateral arms projects, Mr Chirac said that no project was in question, although some might be staged over a longer period. This appeared to be a reference to the Tiger helicopter programme, for which France has delayed and scaled down envisaged orders.

His assurances, however, seemed to be limited to projects that were strictly bilateral, and would not affect the Future Large Aircraft project, from which France said it was withdrawing because it could no longer afford to participate. It was not clear yesterday

whether the planned review of joint projects would include the FLA. When Michael Portillo, the Secretary of State for Defence, visited France on Monday, he revealed that France and Germany had agreed to admit Britain to what he described as

the "so-called Franco-German arms agency". However, Mr Portillo acknowledged that there were still difficulties over Britain's membership, disclosing the existence of "more conditions and strings than was at first clear".

Europe steps up to the front line

Analysis

Europe is getting its act together on defence. The last few days have seen a series of small steps forward, which is encouraging, but they have also seen a few paces back, and that is just as heartening.

First, the steps forward. Decisions taken by Nato in Berlin on Monday mean there is a realistic possibility that, some time in the future, Europe may be able to take on defence tasks that at the moment require direct US participation.

Second, the steps back. Yesterday, France and Germany agreed to reassess some of their co-operative defence projects, and maybe to open them up to other nations, perhaps including Britain. This is a decision driven by money, above all: the rising cost of some of those projects, and the pressure on budgets caused by the shift to European Monetary Union.

But it also reflects France's move back towards the mainstream of European defence. There is less need for an exclusive Franco-German alliance in this area, now that all European states - including Britain - accept the need for a European defence and security identity, however defined, and now France is heading back into Nato's military structures.

Oddly enough, Britain finds itself well placed in this complex series of manoeuvres. Even Michael Portillo sounds sensible when discussing European defence (at least when he is not at the Conservative Party conference). He said on Monday in Paris that Britain might join the Franco-German arms procurement agency.

The British view has always been that European defence can be built only from the bottom up, not by constructing grand concepts. Both the new Nato thinking and greater co-operation on procurement are signs that on this subject, at least, Europe is moving in our direction.

Andrew Marshall

French swim into hot water with synchronised Holocaust

IAN PHILLIPS
Paris

For most people, synchronised swimming is an innocuous sport, which involves young women gesticulating and smiling madly in the middle of a swimming pool. But now, the French Olympic team have brought a darker side to the sport with a move which has caused outrage in France. Of all the themes they could

have chosen for their Olympic programme, they have rather controversially plumped for the Holocaust. For four minutes in an Atlanta pool this summer, they will act out a routine, which depicts the rise of Nazism and the horrors of the Second World War.

Fortunately, the eight swimmers on the national team will not be donning either Hitlerian moustaches or jack boots. Nor will they be goose-stepping,

around the edge of the Olympic pool. They will however be reenacting the arrival of Jews in concentration camps to songs from the ghettos and the theme music of *Schindler's List*.

"I chose this theme because it allows us to convey emotions," says national trainer, Odile Petit. "After all, our sport is one of expression." However, even the president of the French Swimming Federation, Francis Luyce, acknowledges that he

was "a bit surprised" when he first saw the programme at the French Championships in Amiens in March. "I heard a few comments from the audience which showed the programme was not unanimously appreciated," he said. "I understand that this is a sensitive subject, but it is not meant to be a provocation." Naturally, the idea of an aquatic Shoah has not gone down well with everyone. One spectator was led to express his

"profound revolt" after watching the programme. "How great was my amazement when I discovered half a dozen young girls wearing caps and nosepegs, swimming around in the sweet blue water of a swimming pool, simulating the sorting out of deportees as they got off trains at the entrance to Nazi camps," he wrote to the French Swimming Federation. "You have accomplished the most advanced act of desecralisation."

Ms Petit does not see what all the fuss is about. "The Duchesays skated a programme which represented torture in Chile," she said of the French skating stars. "This theme of the Holocaust is closer to us and affects us more. Our message is an appeal to fight against racism. If we had chosen to evoke the circus, there would have been no problem, but we would not have been able to express ourselves with so much force."

The theme does not seem to have upset judges. Two weeks ago at the European Cup, the French beat the Russians for the first time in seven years. This may be because the audience did not understand what was going on. "The symbols are not obvious to understand," admits Ms Petit. "Swimmers... who were not aware of the theme, did not know what it was about." Maybe it's not that expressive after all.



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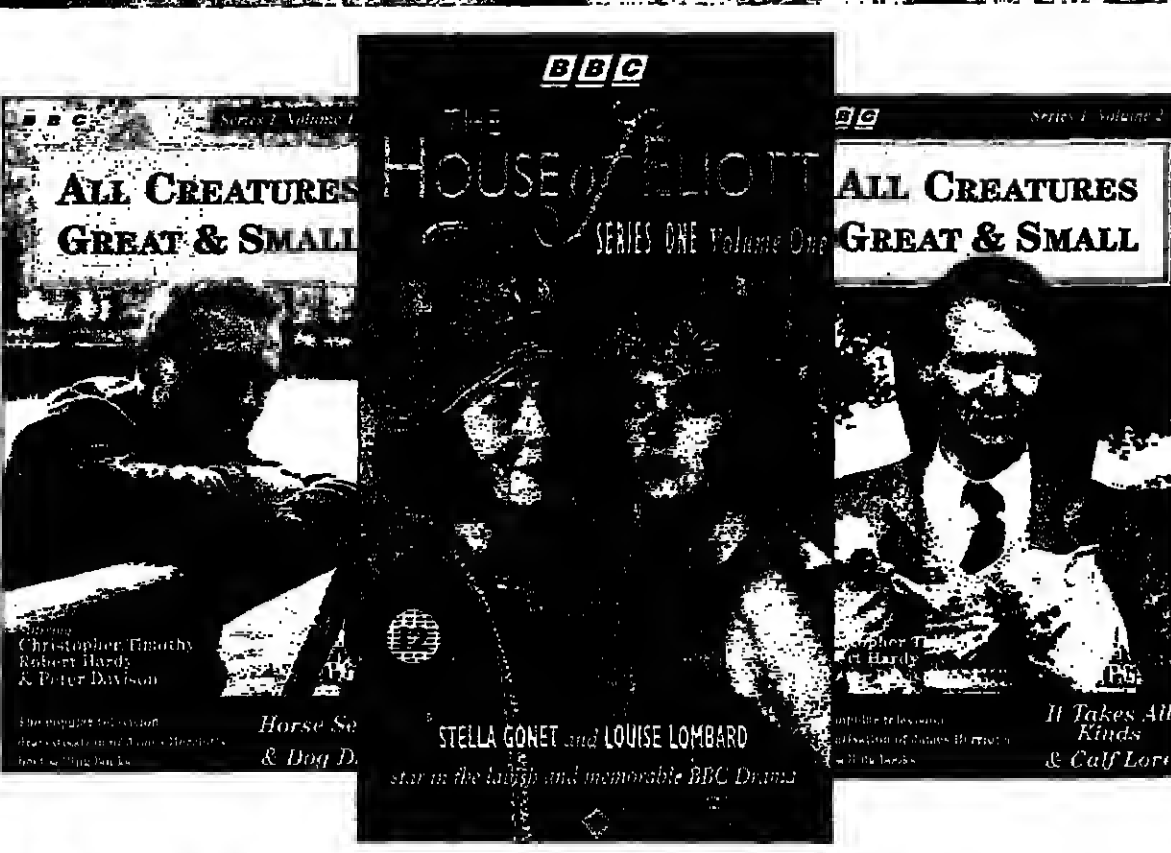
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Simple peace equation that doesn't add up

Sitting on the lawn of Rafiq Hariri's Beirut mansion, it all sounded so simple. If Bibi Netanyahu orders Israeli occupation soldiers out of southern Lebanon, the Hizbollah can be disarmed. "If Mr Netanyahu wants to change his image and the impression he gave during the election campaign, he will withdraw from Lebanon with no conditions," the Lebanese Prime Minister said, the equation so mathematical as it floated over the perfectly cut lawn. "Then Lebanon will be able to assure security in the south."

If only it was that easy. What the apparently moderate Shimon Peres couldn't do, the right-wing Mr Netanyahu might do. Was this out the Begin syndrome again, the idea that the more hawkish the Israelis, the easier they will find it to make concessions to the Arabs?

But Mr Hariri is shrewder than that and, sitting in his garden chair, the hammering of reconstruction baobabs away behind the trees in west Beirut, he seemed to have few illusions.

"From our side, we don't differentiate between Peres and Netanyahu - and you shouldn't forget that a few weeks ago, it was Peres who was bombing civilians in Lebanon... I didn't believe at all that Peres would win. I told everyone who asked

Lebanon's Prime Minister tells Robert Fisk he will disarm Hizbollah in exchange for Israeli withdrawal

me that it was 50/50." Like most Middle East leaders, Mr Hariri watched the election on television and he watched the Peres performance closely. "The way he was acting during the election campaign made me think it would be very difficult for him to win. It may be the [April] war in Lebanon played a role [in Peres's defeat]. He looked like he was inconsistent in his ideas on peace. He talked about peace and he made war. He killed civilians and he went to Paris and talked about tolerance. I think many Israelis were confused. They heard Peres talking about peace and watched him make war. On the other hand, they saw another man who was young and new... I saw on TV many normal Israeli people are afraid of the future, afraid of how Israel will be governed and the future of the peace process. I saw young and middle-aged people talking about uncertainty."

Doubt is not something Mr Hariri is prepared to contemplate about Lebanon, a sentiment which may not be shared by all the Lebanese. While living in the nearest to a Western-

style democracy that exists in the Arab world, the Lebanese know that their government must never contradict Syria and that Syria's favourites sit in cabinet with Mr Hariri. They fear that Israel may soon strike again at Lebanon and that Syria's 22,000 troops in the country will no more be able to protect them next time than they could in

'If Netanyahu withdraws from Lebanon, peace can take place'

April. But the billionaire Prime Minister, whose personal investment in Lebanon's post-civil war reconstruction includes a 10-per-cent shareholding in the company rebuilding Beirut's city centre, believes Lebanon has been inoculated against Israeli bombardments.

"The last [Israeli] aggression showed that Lebanon is immune enough to function normally after 16 days of bombardment... We are a peaceful

country. We are not trying to be militarily strong like Israel. We are trying to rebuild, to develop our country, to build schools and hospitals."

Nations can rebuild even when they are partly occupied, Mr Hariri said. "Part of Syria has been occupied since 1967 and they have a development programme. Jordan and Egypt had part of their countries occupied for many years. But that doesn't mean life stopped. Germany was divided until a few years ago and from the point of view of the west Germans, a big part of it was occupied. But they still continued developing their country."

But then, what has happened to the 27 April ceasefire? Had not four Israeli soldiers been killed since the election? Had not the Israelis bombed a Hizbollah base near Baalbek?

"The attack by the resistance [sic] against Israeli soldiers in the occupied territory [of Lebanon] is not a violation of the April understanding. But what the Israeli armed forces did in Baalbek... was a violation - they chose a target very far from the battlefield."

The Americans have argued that if Hizbollah were disarmed, Israel would leave Lebanon alone. Mr Hariri sits forward with impatience. "Are they going to leave Lebanon? Why are they occupying part of our country in the first place? I don't know why. Maybe they want to use this occupation in the peace negotiations... It all depends on Israel. If Mr Netanyahu decides to withdraw from Lebanon and Syria, the peace can take place at any time."

But Mr Netanyahu has stated he will not withdraw from the Golan Heights. "So it means he doesn't want peace," Mr Hariri responds bleakly. "No peace will take place without a complete Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights."

So what of President Bill Clinton who failed to condemn the civilian slaughter in Lebanon last April, who supported Israel's claim that the bloodbath was provoked by Hizbollah? Mr Hariri chooses his words carefully. "The United States is an essential part of the peace process... we would like to see the US play the role of an honest broker. If it does this, peace can be achieved." He concluded: "He should have condemned the massacre at Qana, because nobody can justify the massacre of innocents."



Rafiq Hariri (right) with Nabih Berri, the speaker of Lebanon's parliament. The billionaire Prime Minister has a big personal stake in the rebuilding of Beirut. Photograph: Reuters

Nigerians vent anger over murder of Abiola's wife

MATTHEW TOSTEVIN
Reuters

Lagos - Thousands of Nigerians demonstrated yesterday against the killing of the wife of detained presidential claimant Chief Moshood Abiola, which an opposition alliance called a political assassination.

"Kudirat Abiola assassinated" was the headline in the *National Concord*, a newspaper belonging to Mr Abiola, as the family prepared to bury his wife, a 44-year-old businesswoman.

The university in the western city of Ibadan was closed after police had stopped students from leading several thousand people in protest. Fifty students demonstrated against the government at Mr Abiola's sprawling Lagos mansion as preparations began for the afternoon burial.

"Enough is enough, and the government should be ready to kill all of us," said Bopoola Kayode, president of the polytechnic students' union.

Mrs Abiola, the senior of Abiola's several wives, was shot in the head at close range by unidentified gunmen as her car passed along a Lagos street on Tuesday. Her driver was also killed.

Victims of the upsurge in political violence



Since Nigeria was plunged into crisis by the annulment of the 1993 elections, the number of killings with no apparent motive of theft has risen sharply. June 1994: A former intelligence officer, Vice Admiral Babatunde Fagbemi, was killed in Nigeria's biggest city, Lagos. October 1995: Retired politician Alfred Rewane died from a single bullet to the heart. Police blamed armed robbers, despite speculation that the attack might have had other motives. February 1996: Alex Iwu, the publisher of Nigeria's leading independent newspaper, was shot

being shot in the head while driving on a Lagos street. A shadowy group claimed responsibility, saying the shooting was to protect the interest of Nigeria's northern rulers. May 1996: Emmanuel Ikotun, director of administration at the central bank, was shot dead at his Lagos home. A week earlier, he had escaped another attempt on his life. The same month, Rear Admiral Olu Omotokunwa, a retired naval officer, was killed at his home, also in Lagos. June 1996: Kudirat Abiola (pictured left) was killed by a gunshot to the head.

National Concord did not speculate further on the killers' motives but called members of the main opposition coalition, the National Democratic Coalition, in a statement issued by their London office, also branded Mrs Abiola's murder a political assassination.

Nigeria's military ruler, General Sani Abacha, yesterday sent a letter of condolence to Mr Abiola's family, along with a high-powered delegation led by the chief of army staff, Major General Ishaya Bama, and including eight government ministers.

The letter said: "It is with great shock that I received the news... the federal government will do everything within its power to unravel the mystery of Kudirat's death," the letter said.

Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation with well over 100 million people, has been in crisis since former military rulers annulled a June 1993 election deemed to have been won by Mr Abiola. The millionaire businessman has been detained on treason charges in the capital, Abuja, since June 1994 when he proclaimed himself

president based on the results of the annulled poll.

Mrs Abiola was a prominent figure in the campaign for an immediate restoration of democracy to secure her husband's release and install him as president.

She had said she last saw him in October 1994.

Hundreds of Muslims in traditional blue mourning robes prayed incessantly at Mr Abiola's home yesterday.

The United States deplored the murder and called on the government to catch and prosecute the killers.

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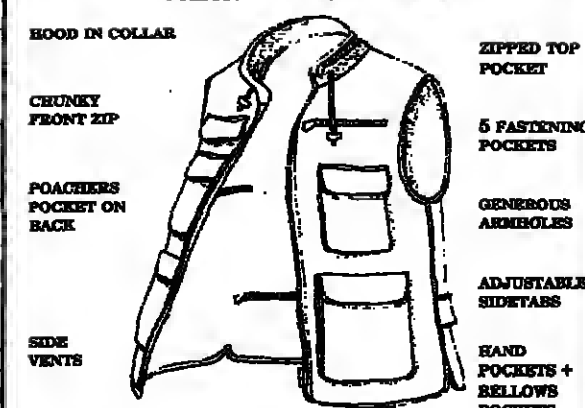
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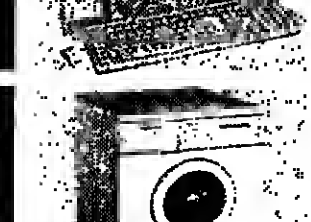
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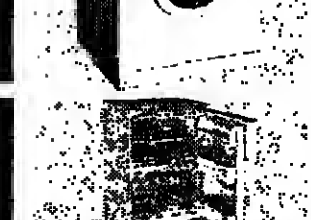
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16
international

Outrage at the Black Virgin's dark past

PHIL DAVISON
Latin America Correspondent

On 12 December 1531, according to Catholic historians, an event occurred on a Mexican hilltop which changed the face of the Americas. Or did it? Occur, that is. The question is rocking Latin America.

The Catholic abbot in charge of one of Latin America's holiest shrines, the Basilica of Guadalupe in Mexico City, promised to resign yesterday after implying that a peasant's 1531 vision of the "Black Virgin of Guadalupe" may have been a con by the conquistadores.

It has been said before, particularly by Protestant preachers, but this was the guardian of the renowned Basilica, to which millions of Roman Catholics make pilgrimages every year, often approaching for hundreds of yards on their knees to show their devotion to the Black Virgin, Mexico's patron saint. Believers were outraged.

Abbot Guillermo Schulemburg, 81, appointed to the post directly by the Pope in 1963, insists he maintains his faith in the Virgin and was questioning only the historical existence of Juan Diego, the Indian said to have had the vision. But that still caused uproar among Catholics who revere Juan Diego, beatified by Pope John Paul in 1990 during a visit to the Basilica.

"It's like an American doubting the existence of Abraham Lincoln," said one Mexican. The abbot is to give his resignation to the Pope in October.

Some Mexicans believe the abbot has been "set up" by rival archbishops in a power struggle over the Basilica's huge

income. A Mexican weekly news magazine, *Proceso*, recently published photographs of luxury houses Abbot Schulemburg reportedly owns in Mexico City, and noted that he had a taste for expensive cars.

Church sources say the abbot had hoped to create a separate diocese for the Basilica, which currently has a large degree of financial autonomy but which falls within the diocese of Mexico City. The city's archbishop, Norberto Rivera, might prefer to take complete control of the Basilica. Catholic pilgrims donate millions of dollars to the shrine annually.

Basilica priests deny it, but many Mexicans believe the Basilica takes a cut of the profits from countless Black Virgin trinkets and portraits sold by vendors outside the shrine.

Vendors earn up to 500 pesos (£45) a day – more than 20 times the minimum wage.

Other Mexicans blame the country's president, Ernesto Zedillo, for stoking the controversy as a distraction from his government's social, political and economic problems.

It was on December 12, 1531, a decade after the conquest by Cortes, that the humble Indian peasant, visiting the ancient Aztec shrine to the Goddess Tonantzin (Mother God) outside Tenochtitlan (Mexico City), reportedly had a vision of a "Black virgin" with the face of an Indian. Whether by choice or force, the historians do not specify, but the Indian man had already adopted a Spanish name, Juan Diego.

Miraculously, after a decade of failing to win over local hearts and minds, the Spaniards had



The Black Virgin of Guadalupe: An Indian peasant's vision, or a conquistadores' con trick? Mary Evans Picture Library

found the perfect catalyst to fuse the Indians' paganism with the cult of the Virgin Mary. Converting the natives, after all, had been the original *raison d'être* of the conquest ordered by Spain's Catholic kings. But the first dozen Franciscan friars sent out as missionaries in 1524 had struggled to communicate with Indians, who spoke over a hundred languages and worshipped the Sun, Moon and other gods.

The cult of the Black Virgin of Guadalupe spread through South America, speeding the conquest and creating the unique mix of Catholicism with pagan undertones that is still

very much in evidence today.

The Black Virgin was traditionally carried into battles on banners. Now she dangles from taxi drivers' rear view mirrors. Pilgrims buy Black Virgin table lamps and Black Virgin soap.

The abbot's controversial theory is not new and was reportedly known by other church leaders for years.

The scandal broke when Abbot Schulemburg was quoted in the Italian magazine *30 Giorni* (30 Days) last month. "Juan Diego is more of a symbol than a reality," he said. Right or wrong, the abbot seems to have lost the battle with believers.

European defence: Security fears grow in countries bordering Russia

East faces division over membership of Alliance

TONY BARBER
Europe Editor

An emerging deal with Russia to allow a limited expansion of Nato into central and eastern Europe runs the risk of dividing the region into winners and losers. Countries that stand to gain include the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland, which are the most likely candidates for early Nato membership; while countries whose security problems may increase if the deal goes through include the Baltic states and Ukraine.

According to some Nato officials, Russia's Foreign Minister, Yevgeny Primakov, indicated to alliance leaders in Berlin on Tuesday that the Kremlin would not resist Nato's expansion provided that nuclear weapons and Western military bases and troops were not brought into new member states. Such states would, however, enjoy the full collective security guarantee that comes with Nato membership.

Publicly, Nato says there is no deal with Russia and that the terms of membership are a matter exclusively for Nato's 16 national governments and the candidate countries. However, Nato officials acknowledge that it is unrealistic to address such an important security issue without taking Russian concerns into account.

Although Nato is reluctant to name the countries that will be admitted first, there appears to be a tacit understanding with Russia that they will be the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and possibly Slovakia. This is because, broadly speaking, they lie some distance from Russia's frontiers and are seen as successful young democracies with strong Western historical and cultural traditions.

Poland shares a border with the Russian enclave of Kaliningrad, but the danger of a Nato-Russian confrontation in this area would be reduced if there were an understanding not to base Nato armies in Poland. A question mark hangs



over Slovakia's entry into Nato because the US and European Union are dissatisfied with the quality of Slovak democracy.

Even if Moscow has reluctantly accepted that the Czechs, Hungarians and Poles will join Nato, the Russians are unlikely to let the alliance get off scot-free. For one thing, Nato's expansion would render redundant the 1990 Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty, which was based on European military and political arrangements that would no longer exist.

Nato recognises the need for some changes to the CFE treaty, but if it lapsed altogether Russia could see a chance to rearm and redouble its efforts at turning the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), made of up all former Soviet republics except the Baltic states, into a military alliance. Russia might also refuse to ratify the Start-2 treaty on reducing intercontinental nuclear weapons.

According to Russian defence sources, Nato's enlargement could cause Russia to target new member states with tactical nuclear weapons. One Polish scenario anticipates extra Russian forces in neighbouring Belarus and nuclear weapons on Russian submarines in the Baltic Sea.

Even a cautious Nato expansion into central Europe is unlikely therefore to be trouble-free. But much greater problems could arise for countries excluded from the first stage of enlargement, especially Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

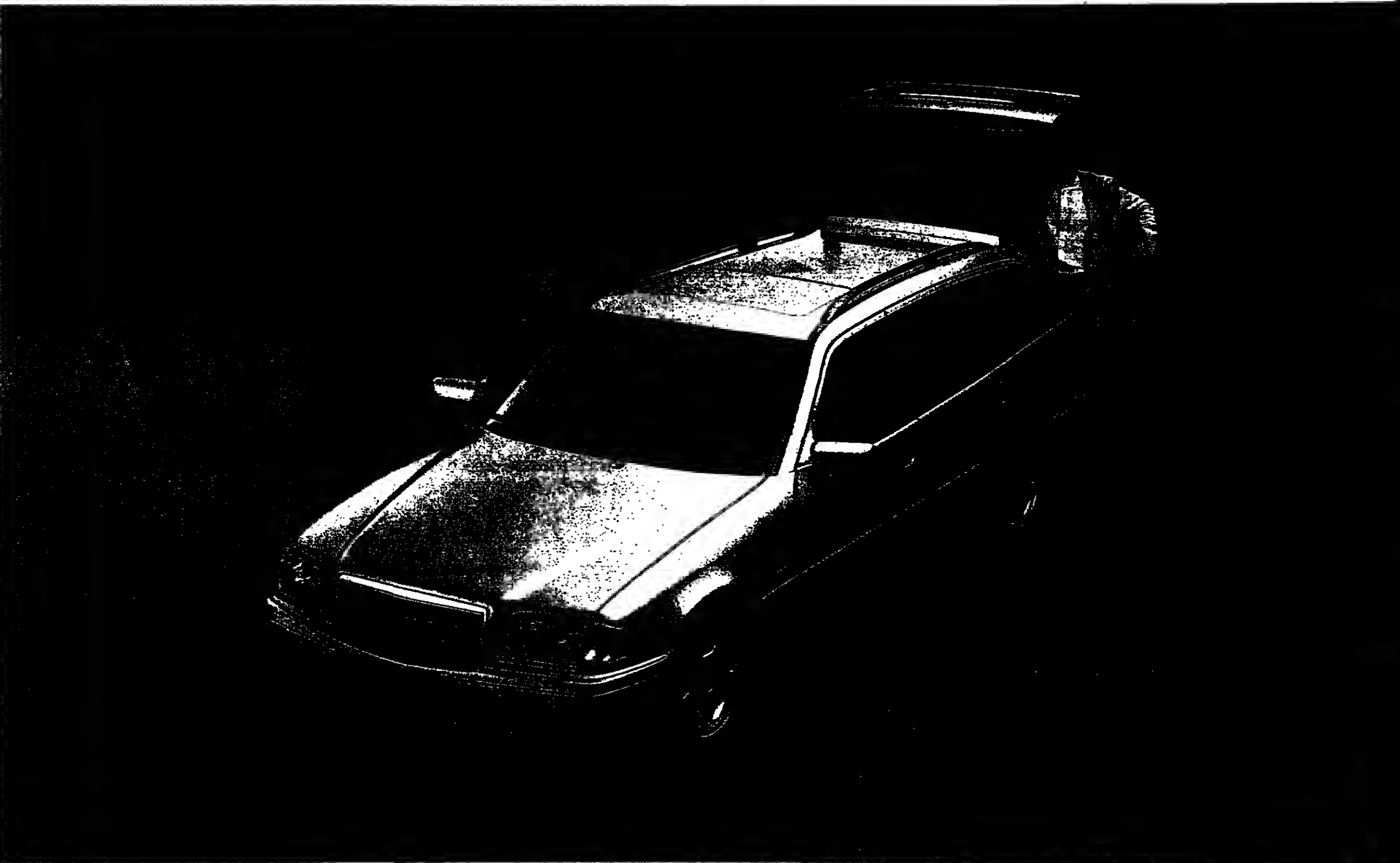
Moreover, Estonia and Latvia in particular have difficult relations with Russia, partly because both contain large ethnic Russian minorities.

Yet Western states, especially the Nordic countries, do wish Moscow to gain the impression that Nato is indifferent to the fate of the Baltic states. A US think-tank, the Rand Corporation, has proposed that the three countries enhance their stability by strengthening security ties with Nordic states and joining the EU.

However, the inescapable fact is that such steps would give the Baltic states the collective security guarantee that is the most precious element of Nato membership. As for Ukraine, Nato's expansion up to its borders would put it under Russian pressure to join a common CIS defence, something Ukrainians are keen to avoid.

Limited Nato enlargement may pose problems for Bulgaria and Romania. Russia views the part of the Balkans as an area of traditional influence, and President Boris Yeltsin recently outraged Bulgarians by suggesting their country might join the CIS.

Despite their desperation to join, they are seen as so small and close to Russia that they are virtually impossible to defend.



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Flashpoint: Forest fires by the shore of Birch Lake, north of Anchorage, Alaska. By yesterday, the blaze had consumed more than 6,000 tinder-dry acres. Up to 1,000 people had been evacuated from their homes, although between 50 and 100 were destroyed. The estimated cost of the damage was at least \$28m
Photograph: Stephen Nowers

Redneck keeps the Klan fire burning

CAROLINA DAYS

Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult," says the sign outside the old Echo theatre in Laurens, but *risque* movies are not the feature attraction. If only they were, with most inhabitants of this small God-fearing town in the hilly hills of South Carolina's p Country. At the Echo these days, the fare is not so much X-rated as Triple-K. Where once you picked up popcorn, you can now buy memorabilia of the Ku Klux Klan.

It is three months since John Howard, a Klansman of 30 years, opened the Redneck Shop in the Echo's former garage, to raise money for what was planned as the world's first KKK museum. A range of material is on offer, from Sassy T-shirts (the Confederate flag accompanied by the inscription, "If you don't like my

flag you can kiss my rebel ass,") to ones that are blatantly offensive: "The KKK is getting bigger. Ain't you glad you're not a nigger." Embossed KKK knives go for \$26.50 (£17). There are old signs from segregation times warning "No Dogs, Negroes, Mexicans," and portraits of luminaries such as General Nathan Forrest, the Klan's first Wizard in 1866, and William Joseph Simmons, organiser of the Klan's first revival in 1915.

Business may be slow – not a single other customer appeared when I was there this week. But a town has been traumatised, and old wounds of the South have been re-opened. The Redneck Shop plainly serves as an enlistment centre for the Klan. Most chilling of all, a caller to the number printed on the shop's business cards is met by a KKK recruiting message, spewing abuse at "nigger hordes" who want to "breed with your beautiful young daughters" to produce a race of "welfare recipient mongrels".

Whatever else though, Mr Howard is not a quitter. He has endured demonstrations by the dozen, even Jesse Jackson has come to Laurens to protest. In late March a driver deliberately crashed his van into the store, wrecking the windows and causing \$9,800 of damage, but Mr Howard was back in business the same afternoon. For fear of a boycott the local bank has closed

his account, but still his doors remain open. Mr Howard does not, however, take kindly to the media. "I don't make no statements," he snarled at me from behind the counter. "I want nothing to do with journalists, not one of them ever printed nothing but lies about me." His argument is that wars and all, the Klan is a part of the Southern history. And if Louis Farrakhan is allowed to rail against whites and Jews, why cannot he run a souvenir shop? The old Ku Klux Klan of course is dead. Blacks have the vote and schools are integrated. Across the South, blacks serve in police forces which once were Klan accomplices, and civil liberties groups keep permanent watch on right-wing hate movements. Probably only a few thousand Klansmen are left, belonging to organisations with names like the Invisible Empire and the International Keystone Order of the KKK, in which Howard holds the rank of Grand Dragon. Compare that to 5 million members at the KKK's height in the 1920s, or even the 100,000 active Klansmen during its last renaissance, between the Supreme Court desegregation ruling of 1954 and the civil rights legislation of the mid-1960s. But if the Wizards, Cyclops and Dragons have scattered to the winds, their philosophy lives on. South Carolina has led the recent spate of arson attacks against black churches across the old Confederacy – in one of which an arrested suspect was carrying a Klan membership card. As a growing number of militia movements attests, white supremacism is anything but dead. At about the time as Mr Howard started business, Americans were appalled by a videotape of a white South Carolina state trooper cursing and beating a black female motorist he had stopped for speeding. And now the Redneck Shop and museum, summoning a past which the oldest can still remember – of church burnings and lynchings, of blazing crosses and bands of hooded, white-robed horsemen roaming the fields by night, terrorising the black population. But Mr Howard is not apologetic. "The only people I've had problems with, who took it as an insult and a racial situation have been blacks," he told *Time* magazine a few weeks ago, when he still gave interviews. "I didn't know that blacks were so prejudiced."

Rupert Cornwell

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

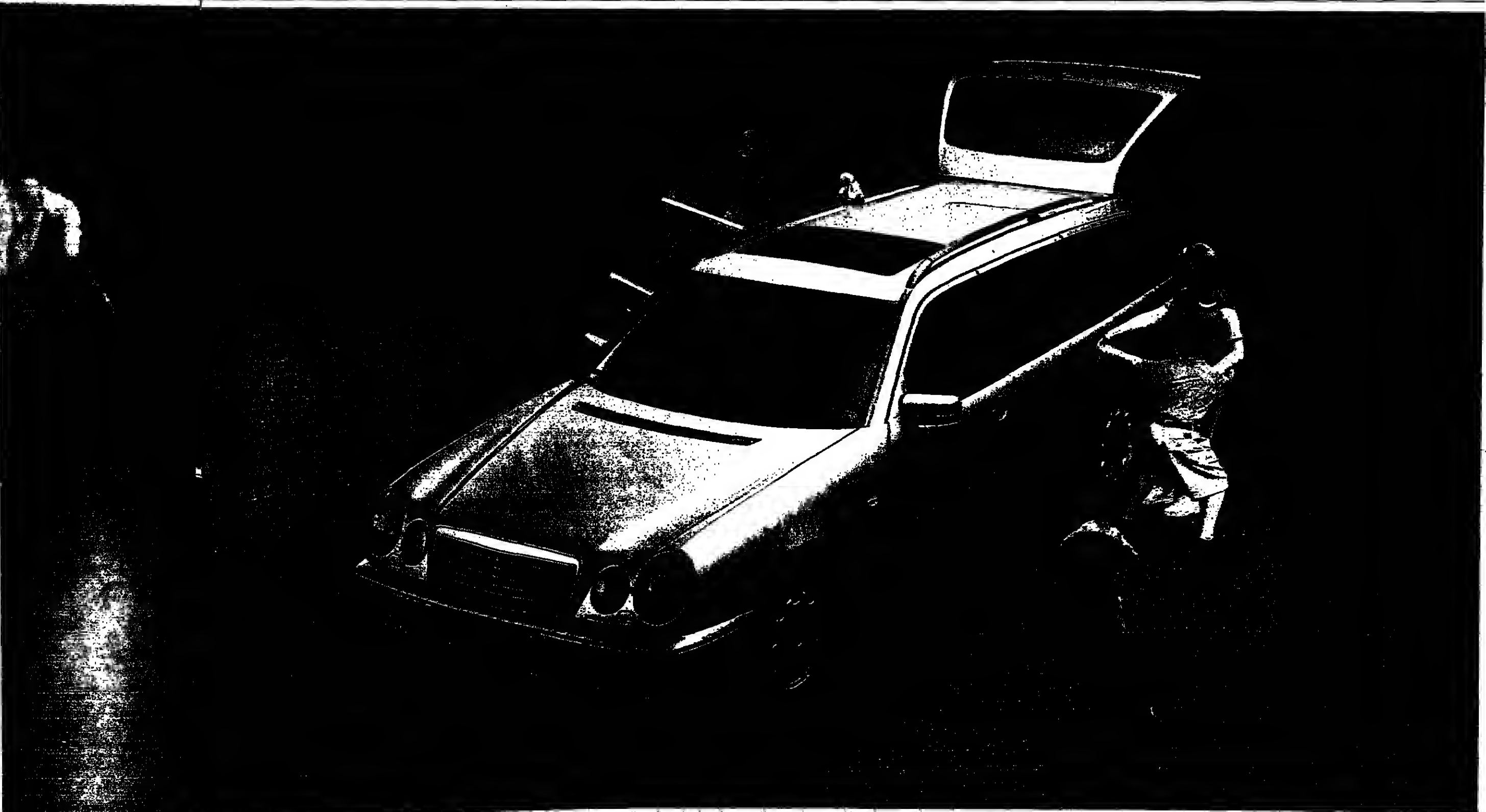
President Clinton has chosen Admiral Jay Johnson, 50, as the new chief of naval operations, succeeding Jeremy "Mike" Boorda, who committed suicide three weeks ago amid controversy over whether he was entitled to wear Vietnam combat pins in his uniform decoration. Admiral Johnson's nomination as the navy's senior uniformed official is expected to be welcomed within the force, whose morale has been shaken by scandals and misfortunes. Even so, his confirmation by the Senate could fall foul of election-season manoeuvring. The challenges facing Admiral Johnson are numerous, ranging from after-effects of the 1991 Tailhook Scandal to mysterious crashes of the Navy's F-14 plane and cheating and drug scandals at the Annapolis academy. *Rupert Cornwell - Washington*

One of the parties in the Turkish ruling coalition decided to support a no-confidence vote, dooming the government of Mesut Yilmaz. If his government falls after Saturday's vote, it could open the way for a pro-Islamic party to take power. Deputies of the centre-right True Path Party decided to vote against their own government after attacks by Yilmaz supporters on their leader, the former prime minister Tansu Ciller. Meanwhile, Parliament voted to investigate the sources of Mrs Ciller's personal wealth. The motion, brought by the pro-Islamic Welfare Party, was also supported by Mr Yilmaz's Motherland. *AP - Ankara*

The former tennis star Ili Nastase is planning to switch tactics in politics with the same alacrity he showed on court in his attempt to become mayor of Bucharest. Mr Nastase, who has avoided public debate with rivals and who is apparently trailing after the first round of voting, has agreed to discuss the issues on television with the other remaining candidate. Results were not in four days after Sunday's election but statements from Mr Nastase's camp – the governing Social Democracy Party – and the main opposition alliance indicated the flamboyant ex-tennis star was behind a sober trade unionist who made a virtue of his modest lifestyle. *AP - Bucharest*

The right-winger Binyamin Netanyahu was officially declared winner of Israel's election for prime minister after the High Court rejected a challenge that could have forced a re-vote. The Central Elections Committee confirmed results announced on Friday showing he narrowly beat Shimon Peres. The court was asked to rule that blank ballots among 148,681 voided last week should have been counted as valid. Had they been added to those legally cast, neither Mr Netanyahu nor Mr Peres would have won more than half the votes and a second round of voting would have been necessary. *Reuter - Jerusalem*

Moroccan police arrested 22 people after a riot in the northern city of Tangier where hundreds of people set fire to one bank and ransacked another. The riot coincided with a general strike, which paralysed much of the country's economic activity. Witnesses said that the Societe Generale des Banques du Maroc branch was gutted in the fire in a poor district of Bni Makada in Tangier, which was hit by serious rioting in December 1990 during another general strike. The rioters reportedly said their action was a protest against the government's social policy. It was the first general strike since 1990, when 44 people were killed in riots. *Reuter - Tangier*



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Stephen Jones was one of the London art world's brightest and most energetic figures: a scholar and aesthete certainly, but also an artistic administrator of no ordinary ability and a great fixer, one who knew how the world worked and who took a constant delight in bringing together the right people to make the things that he cared about happen.

Jones's real interests lay within the grand traditions of English taste and connoisseurship, and all of his professional life was devoted, in one way or another, to the care of our cultural heritage and the promotion of the arts.

He was born in London to parents who were both teachers. But it was at Cambridge, where he came under the influence of dons such as David Watkin and, in particular, Malcolm Burgess, that he formed many of the passions that would shape his life and career. As a prominent member of Magdalen's artistic and theatrical set, he had already begun to develop particular enthusiasms that embraced not only English 18th-century classical architecture, opera and contemporary dance, or the work of Victorian novelists such as Henry James, but also, more specifically, the deep interest in English 19th-century painting of the Aesthetic period that would remain the central focus of all his subsequent activities.

After brief spells in the old Education Department of the Victoria and Albert Museum, where he laid the seeds of his later superbly brilliant and entertaining lecturing style, and as

an editorial assistant to the irascible Denis Sutton on *Apollo*, he was appointed curator of Gainsborough's House in Sudbury. During the two years that he served there, he made the gallery, and also himself, prominent features of the intellectual and artistic landscape of Suffolk, staging exhibitions that ranged from the work of Peter Blake and the Brotherhood of Ruralists to one devoted to the patronage of Frederick, Prince of Wales, based on a great deal of original research.

In 1981, Jones arrived in London to become the curator of Leighton House in Kensington, the role with which many will most readily associate him. He found the dusty shrine to the great 19th-century academic painter both poorly cared for and sadly neglected; this changed rapidly. With tremendous energy, but guided too by rigorous scholarship, he set about a full-scale restoration of the house, putting it firmly on the map of artistic London in the process.

With the backing of the museum's Friends and the help of the architect Ian Grant, the interiors were carefully coaxed back to life, wallpapers and silks were conserved or meticulously copied, and correct lighting installed to bring back the 19th-century feel of the place. Once again the house became Lord Leighton's "Palace of Art", but also through a scintillating programme of exhibitions, lectures and more social events, Leighton House during the years of Jones's curatorship attained an extraor-

inary cachet as a venue for parties, fashion shoots or the making of videos as much as for more conventional art-world events. Jones, always at heart the utterly serious and professional academic, took great delight in the tale of his chance encounter with an old acquaintance who, upon being told that he was running Leighton House, replied "Oh yes, I heard; it's a sort of night-club isn't it."

Following Leighton House, in 1989 Stephen Jones moved to the National Art Collections Fund as the editor of all its publications. Working there closely with the fund's then director, Sir Peter Wakefield, he developed the NACF's *Art Quarterly* into a stylish and highly readable journal. Moreover, Wakefield recalls, "It was a great period of expansion for the fund, and we all came to realise the immense value of Stephen's fertile brain in every area of our activity."

Then, almost five years ago to the day, Jones was appointed Director of Spencer House. This was an immensely demanding role, for this was by no means simply another house-museum, but rather the cultural flagship of the vast mercantile empire of that contemporary Maecenas, Jacob Rothschild. Jones rose to the challenge with customary energy and flair, earning Lord Rothschild's praise for "the quite remarkable way in which he combined a commercial hard-headedness in running the business side of things with an extraordinary taste and sensitivity to the house as an historic building". Such a

combination of skills is extremely rare, and marked Jones as one of the exceptional figures of his generation. "It is tragic," says Rothschild, "that he did not live to go on to even greater things, for he could surely have run one of our great museums with both imagination and flair."

No one who came into contact with Jones could have failed quickly to become aware of the intelligence and erudition that informed everything he undertook, nor of his fastidious requirement that anything with which he was involved should be carried out with style and to exacting standards. This integrity was brought to bear in many areas of his activities, not least in the Victorian Society, the Walpole Committee and the Architectural Advisory Board of the World Monument Fund, in which he took an interest and played an influential part.

From time to time, Jones found time to write. He frequently contributed articles and reviews to *Country Life* and to other journals and newspapers, whilst his short but lucid study *The Eighteenth Century*, published some 15 years ago in the Cambridge Introduction to Art History series, continues to be reprinted in more than a dozen languages. His greatest academic achievement however was the part he played in curating and cataloguing the major Frederick Leighton centenary exhibition earlier this year, a project planned for 10 years, but completed only months before his death from cancer. Along with his friends and fellow Leighton

scholars Richard and Leonée Ormond, Jones had played a crucial role in raising the sponsorship and persuading the initially reluctant Royal Academy to stage the show. It proved in the event an aesthetic triumph, filling the rooms of Burlington House with Leighton's vast, heady canvases in their magnificent gilt architectural frames. Those who knew Stephen Jones well will value most his great gift for friendship, and recall with pleasure his brilliant conversation, enlivened by the sparkling thrusts of a rapier-sharp wit and by a gift for mimicry of both speech and mannerism that could reduce his hearers to helpless tears of mirth. Always fond of parties, he loved the fact that he shared his birthday, 24 September, with that great wit of the 18th century Horace Walpole, to celebrate his 40th birthday, with characteristic stylishness and liberality, Stephen Jones gave a great dinner at Walpole's Gothic house, Strawberry Hill. No setting could have proved more apt for an aesthete of rare sensibility, and one who, in Walpole's celebrated phrase, contrived always to "inform, entertain and innovate".

Stephen Calloway

Stephen Richard Jones, art historian and museum curator, born London 24 September 1934; Curator, Gainsborough's House, Sudbury 1979-81; Curator, Leighton House, Kensington 1981-89; Editor of Publications, National Art Collections Fund 1989-91; Director, Spencer House, London 1991-96; died London 1 June 1996.



Jones in Lord Leighton's "Palace of Art", Leighton House, London. He was its curator from 1981 to 1989

Phil Bernstein

For over 60 years Phil Bernstein provided the tragedies, comedies and romances of the Yiddish Theatre in Britain with their common and essential element: the distinctive music.

His association began in the 1920s as a violinist at the Pavilion Theatre in Whitechapel, east London, under the musical director Ferdinand Staub. In 1936 he became first violinist at the Jewish National Theatre in Adler Street under the musical directorship of Isidore Berman (the founder of the Jewish Male Choir).

My father, the actor Yidel Goldberg, was the unwitting instrument of his next appointment while waiting to make his entrance on stage he realised that he had absent-mindedly forgotten to bring with him the overcoat needed for the next act. He looked around and saw a good Crombie hanging up. He tried it on, found it fitted and made his elegant entrance. In the pit an astonished Berman saw Goldberg come on in a very familiar coat - his own. At the end of the act he stormed out of the theatre in a fury and Phil Bernstein had to assume the

hation for the rest of the performance.

Berman never returned and Bernstein took over the post of musical director permanently. This accidental promotion lasted some five years until 1941, when he was appointed musical director at the most famous Yiddish theatre in London, the Grand Palais in the Commercial Road, where he remained for the next 30 years.

During the course of his extended career he collaborated with all the great actors-managers of Yiddish Theatre including Madame Fanny Waxman, Meier Tzelniker and the American Maurice Schwartz, for whom in 1935 he had been musical director for a season at the Phoenix Theatre in the West End of London.

Phil Bernstein's parents were immigrant Jews from Russia, and he was born in Mile End in 1910. Reluctant to see his son follow him into the tailoring trade, his father insisted on his taking music lessons from a very early age with the well-known local teacher Victor Vozzanger. Phil's talent was immediately apparent and his father's bar



Meier Tzelniker (left), Anna Tzelniker (right) and Yidel Goldberg in *The King from Lamprock*, 1944. Bernstein wrote the music

mitzvah present to him was the violin he played and cherished for the rest of his life. In 1941 he married Anna, the actress daughter of Meier Tzelniker. Their life together was mirrored by their professional partnership which lasted until Bernstein's death.

During the 1930s his ventures widened in scope. He had played for the silent cinema in the 1920s, and when sound was

introduced recorded the musical soundtracks for many films including *Land Without Dreams* (1936), starring Richard Tauber, in which he is clearly visible as first violinist in the orchestra. Together with three friends he formed his own musical comedy band, the Four Chassidim, which performed music and sketches all over London. During a week at the Mile End Empire they shared the bill with the

comedian Ted Ray, who was so enchanted with their antics he pleaded to be allowed to join them with a contribution of his own. The Four Chassidim were delighted to oblige, teaching a joke with a Yiddish punchline.

In the early years of the Second World War Bernstein joined up with Leon Cortez and his band. They toured the nation in a variety talent show

called *Bryan Michie and his Discoveries*. Among the "Discoveries" were a young Eric Bartholomew (Eric Morecambe) and Ernie Wise.

Meanwhile, Yiddish theatre in London continued to flourish during the war. Throughout most of 1944 audiences at the Grand Palais were thrilled by *The King of Lamprock* by S.J. Harendorf, which was unprecedentedly popular with

both Jews and non-Jews and which received extraordinary notices in the national press. It starred both Tzelnikers, but it was Bernstein's music which set everybody's feet tapping.

The 1930s and 1940s saw the arrival in Britain of many new Yiddish actors, refugees from Nazi persecution on the Continent. Their heads were full of the music and songs from home but having barely escaped with the clothes they stood up in they usually had nothing written down. They would sing what they knew to Bernstein, who would transcribe and orchestrate it for performance, thus saving for posterity much material which might otherwise have been lost.

As a violinist Phil Bernstein was exceptional. His bow could convey all the traditional melancholy as well as the sweet poignancy of Jewish music without ever descending into the vulgarity of schmaltz. During his decades as musical director he gently encouraged young talent. But he also quietly watched the occasional prima donna-like absurdities of more experienced artists with amused and

affecting tolerance. It was this cool observation which turned him into a charming raconteur with a wicked line in back-stage anecdotes.

After the Grand Palais finally closed its doors as a Yiddish Theatre in 1970, the company took to the road, travelling to venues all over the country to bring Yiddish plays and concerts to ever-loving audiences. Bernstein continued to support his adored wife, Anna, and her dwindling band of colleagues with his unique music well into the 1990s. In later years he was joined by their daughter Ricky, an accomplished pianist.

This rotund, smiling, kindly man was fortunate in that throughout his life he was able, to combine his two great loves, his music and his family, of whom he was immensely proud. Until he became ill last November he still practised his violin every day.

Rosalind Gold

Philip Bernstein, musician and musical director, born London 23 December 1910; married 1941 Anna Tzelniker (one daughter); died London 31 May 1996.

Air Vice-Marshal A. D. Gillmore

A. D. ("Peter") Gillmore lived through the age of the most dramatic developments in military aviation.

He graduated from the RAF College at Cranwell in 1925, from one of its earliest courses, and was posted in succession to Nos 13 and 208 Squadrons. Both were army co-operation and reconnaissance squadrons, fulfilling what was then still regarded as the primary role of the Royal Air Force.

At that time the Service was going through a number of dangerously exaggerated cuts and savage economies, just as it is today. Professional skills had to be honed on out-dated aircraft and with ancient equipment. Gillmore was to prove sufficiently expert to be appointed in 1931 to an instructorship at the School of Air Pilotage, at Calshot in the Solent, specialising in navigation. He was largely involved in

maritime matters, with flying boats and naval co-operation. In the Second World War he had his first operational command at Wick in Scotland, then the home of anti-shipping wing, and on his return as an air commodore to the Air Ministry in 1943 he fought a hard and successful battle to preserve and extend this essential RAF activity.

Perhaps his two most interesting and telling appointments were in later years as Com-

mandant of the Royal Air Force Staff College at Bracknell in 1951 and then as Senior Air Staff Officer of the Far East Air Force in 1953.

At Bracknell he succeeded the much-admired and respected Sir Donald Hardman, an officer of great stature and impressive good looks who drove a lordly pre-war Lagona. Peter Gillmore, who was slightly built and as bald as Robertson Hare (whom some

said he resembled), arrived to take over driving a second-hand Morris Minor, but to those serving under him there was no sense of let-down - or if there was it was short-lived.

Gillmore was a man of clear and decisive mind, a ready and entertaining speaker and of great personal charm and kindness. He left many happy memories with those who served with him as instructors or as students at that time.

He needed these qualities again in his next appointment, which coincided with heavy involvement of the Far East Air Force with the "emergency", the prolonged and arduous campaign against the Malayan Communist terrorists. The flexibility and mobility provided to the Army were a telling commitment to eventual victory, although the air staff under Gillmore had to admit that the offensive effectiveness of the

RAF was disappointing and much limited by the jungle. Gillmore carried a heavy workload with skill and cheerfulness and won the respect and affection of inter-service colleagues.

After one further command at home (many were surprised that he was not promoted further) Gillmore retired in 1959 to the West Country, where he lived a full and active life with his wife and family of three sons, one of whom is Lord Gillmore

of Thamesfield, from 1991 to 1994 Head of the Diplomatic Service. Many will join them in regretting the departure of a kindly and able man.

Christopher Foxley-Norris

Alan David (Peter) Gillmore, air force officer, born 17 October 1905; Senior Air Staff Officer, Home Command 1956-59; married 1931 Kathleen Morris (three sons); died Henley-upon-Thames 27 May 1996.

Births, Marriages & Deaths

DEATHS
HANSOMBE: Derek, former training officer USPG, died peacefully on 3 June. Funeral at St Michael's Church, Macclesfield, Telford, on 13 June at 11.45. Commotions to Shropshire and Mid-Wales Hospice. Thanking Service at the College of the Ascension, Selby, on 2 July at 6pm.

For Gazette Births, Marriages & Deaths, please telephone 0171-293 2011.

Lectures
National Gallery: Christopher Bakel, "Late Greats (I): Into Rembrandt, 'that noble brute' need not ask for anyone's praise", 1pm.
Victoria and Albert Museum: Francis Pugh, "The Great Exhibition and mid-Victorian Design", 2.30pm.
Tate Gallery: Dave Batchelor, "Gerhard Richter", 1pm.
British Museum: David Shulman, "Tamil Temple Myths", 1.15pm.
National Portrait Gallery: Dr Jeanne Cammison, "David Livingstone Series: Livingstone and his collections", 1.10pm.
Leicester University: Nicky Best, "Modelling Complexity Using BUGS: philosophy and practice", 4.30pm.
RIBA Architecture Centre, London W1: Paul Smith, "The Pulse of a City: streets ahead - London, shopping capital of the world", 6.30pm.

Fortcoming marriages

Mr A. G. Allan and Miss E. M. Granger
The engagement is announced between Aileen, daughter of Mr Allan and Mrs Jan Allan, and Emily, daughter of Dr and Mrs David Granger.

Mr M. D. Chisholm and Dr E. W. South
The engagement is announced between Malcolm, son of Mr and Mrs B.J. Chisholm, of Woking, Surrey, and Philippa, daughter of Mr and Mrs B.D. South, of Wimbledon, London.

Mr G. M. Rogers and Dr C. Mowbray
The engagement is announced between Gideon, son of John and Olive Rogers, and Christina, daughter of John and Shirley Mowbray.

Birthdays

King Albert II of the Belgians, 62; Sir Derek Alton-Jones, former executive chairman, Ferret International, 63; Sir Isaiah Berlin, former President, the British Academy, 87; Professor Breibis Bleasney, physicist, 81; Mr David Blunkett MBE, 49; Mr Björn Borg, tennis player, 40; Lord Carrington, director and former chairman, Christie's International, 77; Mr David Chipp, former director, Reuter Foundation, 69; Dame Violet de Valsio, founder of the Royal Ballet, 98; Mr Mike Gatting, cricketer, 39; Lord Gladwin of Gledes, former trade union leader, 66; Mr Iain Hamilton, composer, 74; Pro-

fessor Robert Humphreys, Latin-American historian, 89; Mr Asif Iqbal, former Pakistan cricket captain, 53; Mr J. Kay-Mouat, former president of the Alderney States, 63; Lord Kings Norton, Chancellor, Cranfield Institute of Technology, 94; Mr Tim Llewellyn, radio news reporter, 56; Mr Willie-John McBride, rugby player, 56; Sir Jonathan Mann, High Court judge, 53; Sir Robin Maxwell-Hyslop, former MP, 65; Sir Douglas Mowbray, former partner, Touche Ross & Co, 72; Sir Bryan Nicholson, chairman, British United Provident Association, 77; Dr Ruth Sanger, former director, MRC Blood Group Unit, 78; Lord Siodart of Lession, former government minister, 80; Mr Klaus Tennstedt, Conductor Laureate, LPO, 70; Mr Frank Tyson, former England cricketer, 66; Miss Billie Whitelaw, actress, 64; Sir Donald Wilson, chairman, North West Regional Health Authority, 74.

Anniversaries

Births: Diego Rodriguez de Silva y Velazquez, painter, baptised 1599; Captain Robert Falcon Scott, Antarctic explorer, 1868; Thomas Mann, novelist, 1875; Deather Carl Gustav Jung, psychiatrist, 1961; Jean Paul Getty, oil magnate, 1976. On this day: the Allied invasion of Normandy took place - D-Day, 1944; Princess Margaret married Anthony Armstrong-Jones to Westminster Abbey, 1960. Today is Corpus Christi and the Feast Day of St Ceratius or Cornus; St Cloud of Bergamo, St Eustorgius II of Milan, St Gudwal or Guryal, St Judith, St Norbert and St Philip the Deacon.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen attends a garden party at Bagshot Park, Surrey, to mark the bicentenary of the Royal Army Chaplains' Department. The Duke of Edinburgh, President, City and Guilds of London Institute, presents the 1996 City and Guilds Prize Philip Medal and Silver and Bronze Medals at Buckingham Palace, and attends a luncheon at the Connaught Hotel, London W1, visits the Royal College of Art, London SW7, and as President, attends a reception held to welcome delegates to the Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth's Seventeenth Biennial Conference at St James's Palace. The Princess Royal attends Founder's Day, Royal Hospital Chelsea, London SW3, as Reviewing Officer on President, British College and Cutting Export Council, attends a Luncheon at the Landmark London Hotel, London NW1; and as President, Royal Yachting Association, attends the "Sail for Gold" Ball at the London Hilton Hotel, London W1. The Duke of Gloucester, Honorary Colonel, Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia), attends the Regimental Centenary Celebrations at Wycombe Camp and attends a Concert in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund at Wycombe Leys, Wycombe, Great. The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, Association for Sylvia Stiles and Hypodermis (ASBAH) attends a Conference to mark the 30th Anniversary of ASBAH at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London SW11 and takes the salute at the Beating Retreat by the Manned Bands of the Household Division on Horse Guards, London SW1. The Duke of Kent, Patron, Blatchley Park Trust, switches on the Colossus cryptographic computer, Blatchley Park, Blatchley in Vision, attends a lecture to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of Cranfield University, Cranfield, and opens the new Technology Centre of Fujitsu Photo Film, Bedford. Prince Michael of Kent unveils a statue of Field Marshal Montgomery in Colville Montgomery, Normandy, on behalf of the Normandy Veterans Association.

Changing of the Guard

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11.30am, band provided by the Irish Guards.

Nadir surety need not forfeit recognisance

Regina v Central Criminal Court, ex parte Guney HC, Lord Goff of Chelmsley, Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle, Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord Steyn and Lord Hoffmann 9 May 1996

LAW REPORT

6 June 1996

A defendant surrendered to the custody of the Crown Court when, in response to being told to do so, he attended a preparatory hearing and pleaded in an arraignment. From then on his detention or bail was a matter for the trial judge. Any earlier arrangements as to bail at that point ceased to apply and a recognisance entered into as a condition thereof could no longer be forfeited if the defendant later absconded.

The House of Lords dismissed an appeal by the Serious Fraud Office and affirmed the decision of the Court of Appeal (Law Report, 2 February 1995; [1995] 1 WLR 576) allowing an appeal by Ramsdun Guney against the decision of the Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Law Report, 10 February 1994; [1994] 1 WLR 438) refusing judicial review of the order of Mr Justice Tuckey, on 30 July 1993, that Mr Guney, who had stood surety for Asil Nadir in the sum of £1m when the latter was granted bail in

December 1990, should forfeit £650,000 or serve two years' imprisonment in default of payment, following Mr Nadir's absence on 4 May 1993.

On 22 June 1992, Mr Nadir, who was to be tried for a number of offences of theft and false accounting, appeared before the Central Criminal Court (sitting in a room at Chichester Rents) for a preparatory hearing of the type held in complex fraud cases, pursuant to sections 7 to 9 of the Criminal Justice Act 1987. Section 8(2) provided that arraignment should take place at such a hearing.

There was no dock in the room so Mr Nadir simply stood up. He was formally arraigned and pleaded not guilty to the charges put to him. At no stage during the hearing was any reference made to Mr Nadir's bail. The fact that Mr Guney was not present to agree to any extension of his recognisance caused counsel for both sides to agree that it was unnecessary for Mr Nadir to surrender to the custody of the court on this occasion. Both counsel believed

their agreement effectively kept Mr Guney's recognisance in force. The judge was not informed of this arrangement.

Robert Owen QC, David Calver-Smith and Simon Browne-Wilkinson (SFO) for the appellant; Edmund Lawson QC and Russell Houston (Kaim Todner) for Mr Guney.

Lord Steyn said the duty of a defendant who had been granted bail by the magistrates was to surrender to the custody of the court at the required time and place and, depending on arrangements at various trial centres, he might be required to report to a particular office or official: see *DPP v Richards* [1988] QB 701 at 711.

What happened when the defendant, although present at the court hearing, was not officially required to surrender but was formally arraigned? Did he remain on bail after arraignment until the judge ordered otherwise?

The arraignment of a defendant involved calling him to the bar by name, reading the indictment to him and asking him whether he pleaded guilty or

not guilty. When a defendant who had not previously surrendered to custody was so arraigned, he surrendered to the custody of the court. His further detention was solely with the discretion and power of the judge. Therefore unless the judge granted bail the defendant remained in custody pending and during his trial.

Given the express provisions of section 8 of the 1987 Act, the trial began with a preparatory hearing and arraignment took place at the start of the hearing.

Since arraignment operated in law as a surrender to custody, the judge might not in law abdicate his responsibility in respect of the defendant's custody. He could not deprive an arraignment of its legal effect. *Not a foriori*, could an agreement between the parties disavow an arraignment of its effect on bail.

Whatever might mistakenly have been thought and done in the past, the rule was that, where a defendant had not previously surrendered to custody, his arraignment amounted in all cases as a matter of law to such surrender.

Paul Magrath, Barrister

We must start planning for an urban future

We don't, in Britain, think much about cities. At the international Habitat conference taking place this week in Istanbul, there is by contrast big and exciting talk about the urban future - why such once uncontrollable cities as Calcutta and Sao Paulo have calmed down; what impact wiring and electronic communications will have on the mental life of cities; how cities are to be sustained, and their voracious needs contained.

None the less, there are UK cities that think big. Glasgow, the former European City of Culture, has come to define itself as a mecca for arts tourists. Birmingham and Manchester celebrate their multiple personalities as regional capitals and, increasingly, European metropolises. Birmingham may not quite be a city charmed by music, but what prouder symbol of transformation is there than a world-class orchestra created by Sir Simon Rattle.

Thanks to Symphony Hall, parts of central Birmingham have become newly desirable - for that hard-to-define population of younger people and the pizza-deliverers and club-owners who cater to them. Flats are being bought and rented; housing associations and private developers are sizing up opportunities. The flight from the centre starts to reverse itself. If there is a lesson, it is not about "planning" in the sense of a government man with a map. It is about the creation of opportunities -

commercial and cultural, intertwined - that have a prospect of being realised in their natural urban environment.

There is a delightful serendipity in the way that cultural development spins off economic and housing development. That is not at all the same as saying, leave it to the market. Markets don't normally build symphony orchestras. What has been happening in Birmingham owes a lot to the determination and consistency of the city council. Public money matters. The imagination of city leaders (public and private) also matters.

What Birmingham's example says is that we need to revise our conception of planning. What government can do is lay down frameworks within which market-led development can take its own course; private interest can be bent to public purpose. This is the model of planning needed as we follow the Environment Secretary John Gummer's advice of yesterday and start to think about where housing is going to go to contain the huge growth in household numbers projected by his officials. Mr Gummer, too, could benefit from some advice.

He must not blind himself, let alone us, with overly precise figures about the growth of this or that kind of household. We cannot forecast precisely how society will adapt to changed expectations, because households are artificial constructs. There is clearly a dynamic relationship between the avail-



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ability of homes to live in and people's willingness to leave their parents, get divorced, set up on their own. Fewer houses and flats is likely to mean fewer households. We must not think "concealed" households - lodgers, adult children living at home, latter-day communes - are necessarily bad things.

And some of the projections appear innocent of economics. Unless house prices rise significantly faster, developers simply will not build. The market is going to have to signal a good deal more energetically than it does now that household demand is rising. That said, space will have to be

found for more homes. That does not entail some great renaissance of Planning, with a capital, dirigiste P. In some quarters there is talk of new garden cities and huge infrastructure schemes. But they would require the rebirth of Big Government, and where is the mandate for that? Stevenage and Crawley and most of the other New Towns worked. Government showed itself able to create value by developing empty land and selling it, to house-holders and industry. But that was then. Government now has to go with the flow of private development.

One government duty is to ensure

that the supply of housing affordable by those on lower incomes is kept up. That means making it easier for private landlords to let while subsidising social landlords. Imaginative local authorities have cut deals with developers that reserve land for housing associations. Government financial rules should make these easier not harder.

Planning is essentially a local matter. It is for local authorities to zone and developers and their customers to identify sites for building. Central government is the court of appeal. If planning pressures are going to grow, Mr Gummer and his successor would be well advised to streamline the process of inspection and final judgement.

Also, there is a proper national concern for greenery, in the form of green belts and the like. But beyond this, we can afford a much more relaxed attitude towards housing development elsewhere in the "country" than the Council for the Protection of Rural England would have us believe.

Finally, government must attend to the South-east. This is and will remain the site of greatest tension between demand, supply and the desire of the haves to keep others out. Here is where Mr Gummer has shown himself unfit. The Tories are captive to their past experience with the Greater London Council. They cannot see that there is no solution to planning disputes in the South-east - London's hinterland

- without London's interest being given voice and weight. Ministers cannot ventriloquise that voice. Something vital goes missing if London is not involved in the debates about transport, or about infilling "brown" city land. Mr Gummer said yesterday he wants to start a debate about where the housing for the new households is to go. Let him end the Tory obduracy on how the London conurbation is governed. Let him start thinking city.

Queen of American hearts

What is it with Americans? A foreign princess flies in and they treat her as if she were one of the Fab Four. It's clear why some on this side of the Atlantic have cheered the Princess of Wales so heartily. She has helped the monarchy face up to the modern world, which is good for our country and extremely entertaining in the process.

But why US Di-Fever? This is a woman who calls herself "Queen of Hearts" and who poses for photos at a child's heart transplant op. Her life and conversation are therapy-enriched. Hugging is her cure-all. She is famous for being famous... Hmm. Perhaps it's no surprise that Americans are welcoming her. She's becoming one of them.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

How Britain can shape a future Europe

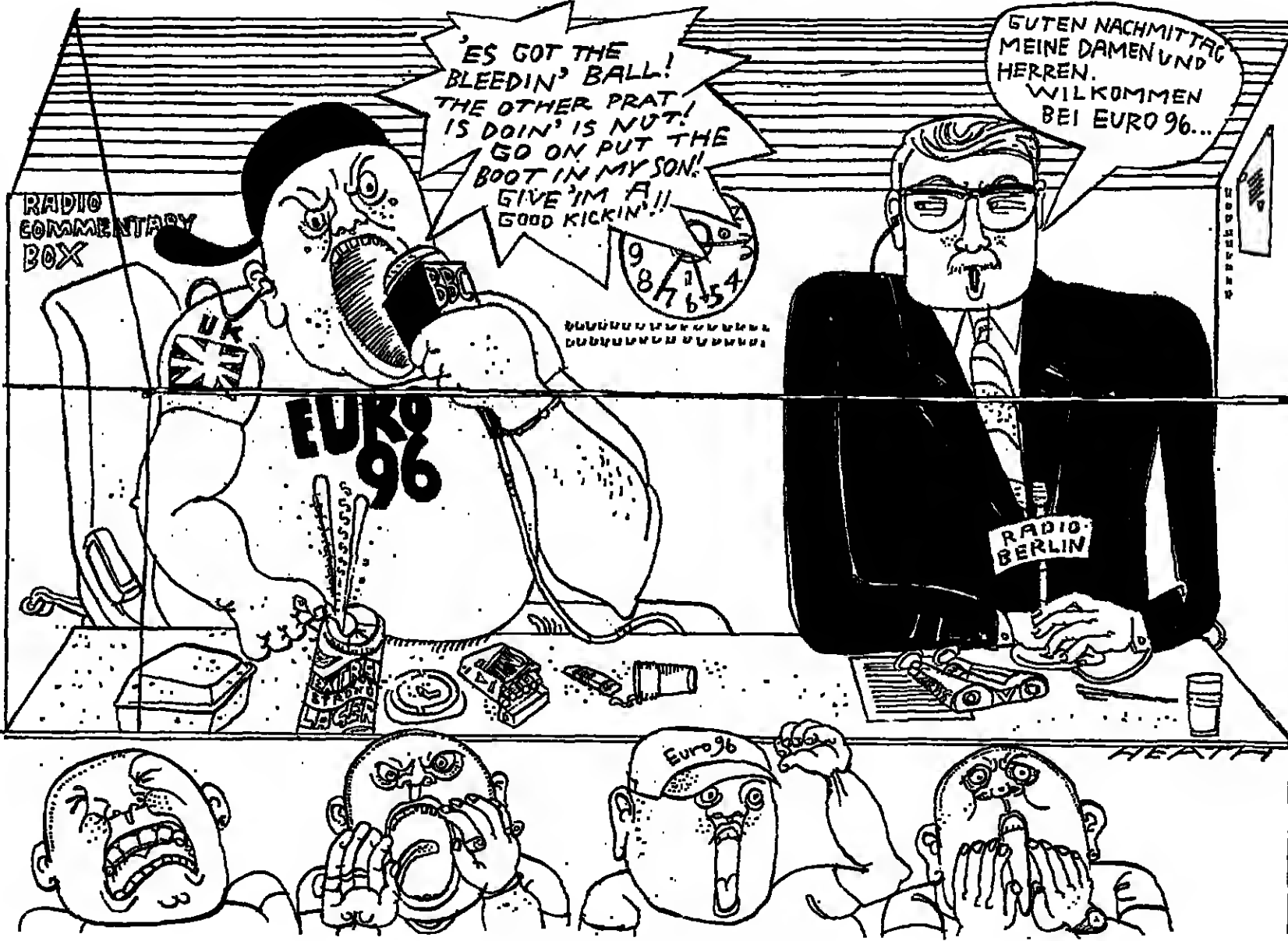
Sir: The last word in your excellent essay on Britain and Europe (3 June) is the most important and potent. That word is "confederacy". It is good and encouraging that a national newspaper now understands the case for - indeed, says it will raise the standard for - a confederate Europe.

As you also point out, we have always been deeply involved in Europe. "Pulling out" is a meaningless concept. As for the cry that we are "bad Europeans", not only have we spent more blood and sweat keeping Europe free, and saving it from destruction, than any other European nation, but we are today far the best performer when it comes to putting in place the single market regulations and observing them.

So all that is lacking is the confidence to shape an enlarged Europe as the decentralised confederation of nation states most of its people long for it to be. We cannot do that alone but we can work with the countries of Central Europe and Scandinavia, as well as with the feelings of millions of German, French, Spanish and Italian people, to achieve that kind of settled European system, with delegated power at the centre carefully circumscribed, in place of the restless and outdated visions of the federalists.

DAVID HOWELL, MP
Guildford, Con
House of Commons
London SW1

The writer is chairman of the
Foreign Affairs Select Committee



Play up and play to maim

ir: Because I believe in the sovereignty of the people, I have been an ardent internationalist and practitioner in European co-operation for 40 years. It is for these very reasons that I oppose the treaties. Supporters of the European movement say they do not want a "federal Europe". Of course not, for the treaties do not provide it. Instead, they have ready created a more rigid unitary political structure than any federation.

Taken together, the treaties form a proto-constitution, which not only prescribes the powers of central institutions, but also requires them and the member states to pursue a specific political programme. The "no frontier", centrally controlled market is, in any conceivable commodity, and in related conditions, require continuing and compulsory competition between peoples, wns, cities and regions, thus king enemy. This system poses limits on the means of sing, and options on spending, tional taxation. Simultaneously gives wide scope to central thority for the distribution of gesse from automatic, teasingly harmonised and nity collected revenues.

Common economic and world mercial policies are now lowed by that for foreign and urty issues, all being co- nated by the Commission. A le currency with an account- able central bank is a tment of all but two mber states. Democratic freedoms can only maintained if governments and flaments cannot, or do not, d their successors. Thus the

treaties have eliminated electoral sovereignty over vast areas of legislative and financial policy.

Unfortunately the means adopted to deliver a democratic, peaceful, harmonious and secure Europe for the next century and beyond are not only likely to have the opposite effects, but they also risk the destruction of those very freedoms which the Second World War was fought to defend and secure.

NIGEL SPEARING MP
(Newham South, Lab)
House of Commons
London SW1

Sir: This letter is from a "morally wrong and intellectually disgraceful" reader who read your long editorial today ("Britain and Europe: a proposal", 3 June).

In reality I found I could agree with virtually the entire article apart from the libel on myself. The first section was an excellent summary of our shared historical backgrounds which, as you rightly wrote, even Euro-sceptics acknowledge. But how do we get from there to European political union? Because lots of English and French and Germans like Beethoven does it mean we should have a single currency? I don't see the connection.

You say that the "anti-European crusaders" would also claim to be Europe-lovers but that, in reality, they are xenophobes. Well, this they are xenophobes. French and Spanish one speaks French and Spanish and is married to a foreigner. I even speak Spanish at home. And what does the rest of the article say? It says that political union would not foster violence, that it would foster violence, that you are against a single currency, that the European project has

been shrouded in deliberate mystery from the start, that the CAP should be abolished, that nations should retain border checks, that social policy should not go to the centre. Now, if I were in say that I would no doubt be loftily dismissed as a xenophobic little-Englander.

There is only one snag with your reasoned suggestions for reform. Nothing like such a possibility is on the table. Our partners would never agree to them. So where does that leave us?

The conclusion seems clear to me - shall I send you a membership application form for the UK Independence Party?

PETER GARDNER
UK Independence Party
Oxford

Sir: I would caution you on your idea of what would constitute a democratic Europe. In your Europe of government leaders, where are the elections? Where is the voice of the people? Far better to give the European Parliament equal legislative power with the Council, and a greater role in appointing and holding to account the Commission. What the people of Europe are used to is parliamentary democracy, where divisions can be on political rather than on purely national lines. The elections to the European Parliament are then the opportunity to resolve debates on a Europe-wide scale, providing a popular mandate for the difficult decisions that surely lie ahead.

This is the federalist vision of

Europe: a Europe for everybody, not just for politicians.
RICHARD LAMING
Director, Federal Union
London SW1

Sir: May I add a gloss to Andreas Whitman Smith's article (4 June)? I am by conviction as well as statute a citizen of Europe. I am, by ties of sentiment and blood, a Scot. I am also, by accident of birth, a subject of HM Elizabeth II, head of a state called the United Kingdom. It seems, sadly, that the last of these is becoming less and less compatible with the other two.

R G BAIRD
Edinburgh

Science must not sell its integrity

Sir: Professor Chris Adams (Letters, 3 June) uses high-sounding language to support a wrong-headed argument. Research in some branches of science is very expensive, and funding there will inevitably come mainly from government and industry.

Politicians and industrialists naturally tend to look for quick and fairly certain benefits, while undervaluing or ignoring more speculative outcomes, which may eventually be far more beneficial. There needs to be (and sometimes is) an arms-length relation between scientist and funder, so that scientific imagination and inventiveness is not too tightly shackled. Professor Adams writes lightly of scientists using "real

world problems" - I have yet to meet a scientist who was not firmly rooted in the real world.

It does not do to claim that market performance is a "stricter" test in science, market forces are notoriously an inadequate and biased criterion. The benefits of applied science are far too unpredictable and quixotic to be assessed in economic terms - except with hindsight. As for the promised benefits to scientists (better financial rewards, and other goodies), many scientists known to me (I am retired, and so disinterested) would gladly give up a little financial reward in return for better protection of their integrity, and more freedom to choose the direction of their research.

Dr ALAN COCK
Department of Biology
Southampton University

Truly poor or just unequal?

Sir: The reason why the Child Poverty Action Group is now, in your words, just "an obscure interest group" is not because poverty is "out of sight, out of mind" (leading article, 4 June). It is instead because for too many years CPAG had made grossly inflated claims about the extent of poverty.

The public eventually caught on to this fact that there actually aren't all these millions of poor people starving, undernourished, or outside of the state's welfare safety net. They therefore lost interest in "poverty". The media

followed. Even the then august sociology journal *New Society* lost patience with the CPAG as long ago as 1986. Quoting figures from my letter in the *Independent* (9 November 1986), the journal castigated the group for exaggerating the extent of poverty, which it had claimed totaled 16.4 million (including those "on the margins of" poverty).

Now we have the Rowntree Foundation telling us that 14 million people are in "poverty". This looks an improvement on the 1986 figure, though a different definition of poverty has been used. Nowadays if your income is below half the average "equivalised" (adjusted) household income you are deemed to be poor. Thus, "poverty" is now defined merely as inequality in incomes.

What does this definition of poverty tell us about the actual level of income poor people survive on? It is not immediately obvious. It is even more difficult to imagine what gross wage one must earn to escape poverty. Which is why I have produced a table of poverty thresholds giving examples of what poverty means in 1996 (*Liverpool Quarterly Economic Bulletin*, published next week). It turns out that, for example, a couple with three children living in a £70,000 semi in some leafy suburb earning £20,000 a year can be regarded as poor under the JRF definition.

The new inequality definition of poverty, in again exaggerating the extent of the problem in Britain, will be as counter-productive in creating concern for the genuinely poor as the original CPAG definition was.

PAUL ASHTON
Eastbourne, East Sussex

Computers better than calligraphy

Sir: Your report (Education, 30 May) on the teaching of "joined up writing" in a number of English schools was little short of astonishing. What next? Quill pens? Hieroglyphics? And as for encouraging the use of fountain pens, I can only suppose that the initiative is sponsored by detergent manufacturers or clothes shops.

The written word is one of the fundamental tools of learning and communication, but I cannot think of a book in current circulation, or a computer, which uses anything other than single-character letterforms.

In the last 150 years we have seen the quill replaced by the steel pen, followed by the fountain pen, then the ball-point and its contemporary variations. Of these, the steel pen was the last to be used widely for the production of documents - those ledgers and fair copies with which the Victorians laid the foundations of modern business practice - as first the typewriter and then the word processor evolved.

In the past week I have written, for reading by others, more than 10,000 words, of which approximately 9,950 were written using a computer keyboard. The other 50 were almost entirely written on sticky notes, simple messages such as "Back at 4pm".

Over the same period, I have received a number of letters and reports from business people and academics in which instances of poor grammar, incorrect usage and inadequate vocabulary rendered the meaning uncertain.

We should be teaching children how to express ideas and information properly, and leave calligraphy as an option in the handicraft syllabus.

KEN WELSBY
London E14

Figures for BSE

Sir: Terry Price's (Letter, 30 May) call for full disclosure of the "scientific facts" about BSE. During the year of the Great Plague in 1665, incidence figures for the London parishes were published weekly. During the foot and mouth epidemic in recent memory incidence figures were also published regularly.

If weekly, or at least monthly, incidence figures were presented about BSE then consumers, our European partners and any other interested people could deduce the extent of the problem and assess how quickly it was being overcome. Mrs MURIEL BROOK
Dorking, Surrey

Vocal warning

Sir: The "road rage" of Balaam against his ass (Numbers, 22) referred to by the Rev Barry Etherington (Letters, 1 June) is more like that which John Cleese takes out against his obstinate car. This was, moreover, no "dumb animal" but an example of divine ventriloquism.

One practical lesson to be drawn might be to invent a device to be fitted to every vehicle which vocally warns the driver, when tailgating or recklessly overtaking, of the perilous consequences of his actions.

Rabbi Dr REUVEN SILVERMAN
Manchester Reform Synagogue
Manchester

Europe: the great debate

Patriots must be Europeans

We can be good nationalists yet unite in a confederal Europe to protect our place in the world, says Tristan Garel-Jones

I do not claim for my party an exclusive lien on patriotism. But it is impossible to think of oneself as a Conservative unless one is animated by a deep, almost atavistic, sense of belonging to one's nation.

It was from the lips of Alastair Goodlad, a man who never uses one word if none will do, that I first heard the phrase "The Conservative Party is not a political party. It's a tribe." True. You do not become a Conservative by signing up to a list of articles of faith. No amended Clause IV here. People join the Conservative Party because of what they feel about themselves, about their family, their community, the kind of personal and collective responsibilities they wish to assume. Conservatives are unashamed of patriotism and concerned about the way in which our individual feelings about our nation are expressed collectively through our sovereignty.

My first conscious brush with the concept of Britain's sovereign actions came as a boy at the time of Suez. Whether or not that was a wise venture can still be debated. But to a young schoolboy in 1956 there was no doubt. Britain was right. Britain would win.

It came as something of a shock to discover that in the minds of many there was at least some dubiety about the rightness of our cause. That shock deepened when it became apparent that we had not won in the traditional sense of the word. And it turned into confused anger when, later, it became clear that our retreat had been forced upon us by a telephone call from abroad. John Foster Dulles, from Washington DC, had dictated British foreign policy.

I tried over the next few years to think through what patriotism and sovereignty really signified and, above all, how they should best be applied and exercised in the modern world. As is often the case it was my interest in Spain and things Latin that provided food for thought. How curious it is, incidentally, that my own Spanish connection and bi-lingualism (I was brought up by a boy and my wife is Spanish) should be regarded as a matter of suspicion by those who, to quote Professor Sir Michael Howard, are "almost boastfully ignorant of any world save their own".

After the Spanish Civil War the losing side, the Republican

left, had to flee for their lives. One such refugee, a law professor from Salamanca University, came to Britain. Life was hard at first. Clearing up snow and rubbish in London and peeling potatoes for 11 hours a day in a café. But slowly this intelligent, sensitive intellectual made his way. He married a Scottish girl, found a job at the BBC and brought up a family - a distinguished member of that tragic Spanish diaspora that resulted from the Civil War.

But throughout all this time he remained true to his beliefs. True to Spain. He founded the Republican left movement in London. He became head of the diplomatic delegation of the Spanish government in exile. He protested outside the Spanish Embassy when the Communist Grimaud was executed by Franco.

There he sat. A Castilian gentleman in Chorley Wood. And he wrote poetry. Rather good poetry, I think. Sad, proud verses laced with the dignified bitterness of a man who had

Luis Portillo's poems are the cry of anguish of a patriot who misses and longs for his native country

been pulled up by the roots. The titles are interesting: "The hand of Saint Teresa", "The Guitar", "The Fig Tree I Used to Know", "The Light of the Bullfight". The poems are the cry of anguish, from north London, of a patriot who misses and longs for his native country. I wish I had known him.

But I am lucky enough to know his son, Michael Portillo. I doubt if anyone would accuse Michael of lacking a deep sense of patriotism towards Britain. Indeed, if he errs at all, his commitment to our country has laid him open to charges of over enthusiasm in this department. But what this little parable suggests to me, at least, is that even that most intimate feeling of attachment to our nation can be an accident of geography or history or mere chance. And I presume to say that many of the highest aspirations and beliefs of that Spanish poet in exile are shared by his British son.

What, then, of the collective expression of all our individual feelings of patriotism - the sovereignty of our nation? My favourite expression of British

imperial sovereignty concerns Bolivia. A 19th-century Bolivian dictator, General Belzu, took it upon himself to expel Queen Victoria's ambassador from his capital. The Royal Navy explained that a blockade of the Port of Cobija was impractical. The Queen then ordered that Bolivia be struck off the map. In one grand gesture, Victoria erased a sovereign state. A 19th-century precursor of Foster Dulles's peremptory telephone call to Harold Macmillan!

I dare say that at the time this gave considerable offence in Bolivia. Today I suspect that any Bolivian tourist who found such a map would buy it at once, frame it, and hang it up in his drawing room. Thus, in 100 years or so, a grand imperial gesture becomes a conversation piece hanging on the wall of a smart apartment in La Paz.

Does this not suggest that even sovereignty itself is something of a moving target? That, perhaps, the most effective ways and forums for advancing

Britain's interests and beliefs might change?

I have no doubt that the challenge to our generation is to give the lie to Dean Acheson's famous jibe that Great Britain has lost an empire and not yet found a role. Nor do I have any doubt that the Conservative Party, with its tribal instinct for nationhood, has been right to support every Conservative prime minister since Macmillan in ensuring that our role lies, to coin a phrase, at the heart of Europe.

What kind of Europe? Not, I suspect, a federal Europe along Belgian lines, nor a simple free-trade area as advocated by some here in Britain. More likely a confederal Europe of sovereign states, as advocated last Monday in this newspaper, where we retain our intimate social differences and identities. This confederation cannot, must not, will not be built without Britain.

So why is Europe so difficult for some Tories? Because we remain, all of us, presumptuous enough to believe that Britain still stands for something in the world. We remain, all of us,

unashamed to advance our country's interests and her values. But unlike my beloved Spain, we did not suffer an overnight humiliation. The Cuban War of 1898 left the whole of Spain in no doubt that the party was over. Our decline from imperial power has been more gradual, genteel even. So much so that some have scarcely noticed. Tory Euro-sceptics still believe in their hearts that brave little Blighty can go it alone.

But the patriotic choice for Britain now is Europe. Try negotiating a lifting of the beef ban in the United States, New Zealand or Canada. Try achieving a single market with no regulations and no court to enforce them. Try negotiating a tariff arrangement for Britain outside the EU. Try getting together with Iceland, Lichtenstein, Switzerland and Norway to influence world trade. Try to persuade the British people that if the single currency works (luckily we can wait and see) and the Group of Seven becomes the Group of Three, we should not be a G3 country - that we should deliberately relegate ourselves to the second division and wait for our nice Portuguese friends to tip us the wink about what happened.

All of this can, of course, be done. A stand-alone Britain does not disappear, Bolivia-like, from the map. You end up with a more "independent" Britain. But a poorer Britain. A Britain out in the corridor, waiting upon decisions she has not been a party to. I wish that those who secretly yearn for such a Britain would come out and say so. Far better to argue openly for withdrawal than to engage in sabotage. It is a debate I would relish.

Today we sit at every top table of consequence in the world. The Security Council of the UN, the G7, Nato, the European Union. In their different ways, they are all bureaucratic, pusillanimous and at times profoundly frustrating. A place at top tables really matters. It is not a question of self-gratification for Foreign Office mandarins. It is here that power is brokered and global decisions are taken, decisions that bear directly on the lives of all our citizens. Walk away from one table and our place at the others will soon be called into question.

There is, perhaps, a debate to be had as to whether Britain should seek to continue in the First Division of World Affairs or settle for the Southern League. For Tories there should be no doubt. To argue against the European Union is to argue against Britain's profoundest self-interest, against her place in the world, and flies in the face of that patriotic instinct that is one of the defining elements of Conservatism.

The writer is Conservative MP for Watford and a former minister in the Foreign Office. A version of this article is to be delivered as a speech to the European Union of Women tomorrow in Hertfordshire.



Luis Gabriel Portillo, father of the Defence Secretary, Michael Portillo, remained true to Spain throughout his exile in Britain

From: España debe abominar la saña
Cuando en su propia sangre redimida,
España otra vez libre rescute,
no encontrará a su alcance otro desquite
que ahogar odio en piedad, y muerte en vida

Spain must abominate rage
When Spain is redeemed by her own blood
And rises again, a free nation
There will be no compensation
Other than to drown hatred in pity, death in life

Poems reproduced from 'Ruiseñor del destierro', Luis Gabriel Portillo, Anthropos, Barcelona, 1989. Translations by Tristan Garel-Jones

From: Españoles estelares
Los muchos españoles estelares
que rinden su existencia en tierra extraña
dan prueba suma de su amor a España
al morir desgarrados de sus lares

Stellar Spaniards
The many stellar Spaniards
Who give forth their existence in a foreign land
Give the ultimate proof of their love of Spain
By dying, uprooted from their home

Euro 96 bluffer? You, too, can play a blinder

I have had a tremendous response to my announcement yesterday of our brand-new Euro 96 supplement. Unfortunately, almost of it has been from people who have no interest in football or have lost it, and now hope only to avoid the whole tournament, and don't want to order the supplement at all. Typical of these is a reader called T Venables of north London, who writes: "Much as one would like to ignore the whole thing, one can't pretend it's not happening. I am bound to be asked lots of questions about it, and expected to join in conversations about it. Any ideas on how to bluff my way through?"

Well, for Mr Venables and for everyone else who may get dragged into conversations about the whole wretched business, here are some suggested lines of talk to use. I have divided them into the different circumstances under which you might need them.

ing a Game on TV Between Two Teams You Haven't Even Identified.

1. "That looked a bit tiffy."
2. "I always say that games like this are won and lost in midfield."
3. "They should be doing more running off the ball."
4. "Games like this are won and lost up front, that's what I always say."
5. "The English game just isn't equipped to take on the Continental style."
6. "They should be doing more running on to the ball."
7. "Games like this are always won and lost in the previous two months' preparation, that's what I always say."
8. "That looked a bit dodgy."
9. "Course, the Continentals have their own style, but it doesn't prepare them for playing against British teams."
10. "You can tell it's come at the end of a long domestic season."

Ten Lines To Say If You Want To Sound As If You Know About Tactics While Watch-

Ten Ejaculations To Ejaculate When the Referee Blows His Whistle



Miles Kingston

1. "Never!"
2. "Well spotted!"
3. "This bloke doesn't have the faintest idea what's going on."
4. "This bloke doesn't miss a single thing."
5. "Looked open and shut to me."
6. "Looked 50/50 to me."
7. "He's not letting them get away with anything, is he?"
8. "He's not exactly letting the game flow, is he?"
9. "Fair challenge!"
10. "Penalty!"

Remarks To Make About Individual Players. Even When You Don't Know Who They Are.
1. "He's finding international

football a bit different from the domestic stuff."

2. "His years playing for foreign clubs haven't done him any harm at all."
3. "I gather Blackburn are after him."
4. "He's on a yellow already."
5. "That wasn't his strong foot."
6. "He hasn't got that extra yard of pace."
7. "He's not playing his club position."
8. "I gather Chelsea are after him."
9. "On his day, there's no one like him."
10. "Not his day, is it?"

Ten wise-sounding remarks for general use.

1. "There are too many teams that are afraid of losing."
2. "Have you seen many defenders making overlapping runs on the night? I haven't."
3. "What this tournament needs is another Pele."
4. "Wasn't it Pele who said, 'Nobody ever lost a game by going back to first principles?'"

5. "If the best European teams got together with the best European fashion designers, we might have some decent shirts on show."
6. "Denmark won the trophy last time - and beat Germany in the final - even though they had had no build-up at all, and didn't even know till the last moment that they had qualified. In fact, most of them were on holiday when it all began. And yet they won against all the teams that had been grimly preparing, slugging it out week by week. What I want to know is: why didn't Denmark have the courage of their convictions and repeat their winning approach this time?"
7. "And why has nobody else copied their approach?"
8. "What do you mean - England did?"
9. "Having a drunken party on a Cathay Pacific plane is the English equivalent of the Danes being on the beach!"
10. "Hmmm..."

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There's more to life than being Joe Normal

As medical technology allows us to avoid 'abnormality', we risk seeing difference as an illness

Lord Ashley of Stoke, the former Labour MP, was deaf for 34 years after an operation that went wrong. But he can hear now thanks to a device, surgically embedded in his skull, known as a cochlear implant. Lord Ashley is overjoyed and has now become an energetic proselytiser for this new technology. He was lucky. The implants, which cost £26,000, are most likely to work when fitted before the age of 10. Now he wants to ensure they are available to as many deaf children as possible.

Few stories would seem to be more free of controversy – a serious disability is successfully overcome by medical technology. Who could possibly complain about that? Well, first there is the British Deaf Association. David Nicholson, "is not a paedological defect to be cured."

And some deaf parents refuse the implants for their deaf children, claiming they are an attempt to "normalise" people who are not ill at all, only different. Deaf culture is as real as any other culture and the deaf experience is as valid as any other. "If you were black," as one of Lord Ashley's opponents remarked, you wouldn't have an operation to make you white.

The argument will shock most people. Deafness is such an obvious disability, such a fundamental lack, that to defend it as a desirable state seems insane. Certainly we may define deaf people as a minority with special requirements, but to define them as a minority, like blacks or homosexuals, who ought positively to be celebrated for their difference, to be yet another case of political correctness gone mad. Surely anybody, given the choice, would, should wish to hear.

But what about short people? Growth hormone can now be administered to children in danger of growing up short. Yet what is short? Is, for example, a 5ft man disabled or is he merely at one end of a statistical distribution of human heights? Many American parents now have growth hormone administered to boys who may grow up to be, say, 5ft 4in, arguing that, in contemporary society, average or better than average height is a crucial determinant of success. People who would normally be classified as dwarves, object, saying that such applications of medicine reinforce

corrupt social mores that discriminate against shortness. They, like the deaf people, say they are not sick, merely different.

The issue is normality and it will be one of the central ethical debates of the next decade. Technologically we are now approaching a position in which we shall, in a range of areas, be able to choose to be as close as possible to the centre of the statistical bell curve of normality. Already we can choose, in vitro, embryos for implantation that do not carry the genes for, for example, cystic fibrosis and discard the rest. Soon we shall be able to do the same for any number of conditions and predispositions. And if easy, cheap, risk-free prenatal testing becomes available, as it will, then potentially all hereditary handicaps or shortcomings may be eliminated by abortion.

Aborting a foetus with muscular dystrophy is one way of saying to people with that appalling condition: you should not have been born. Already parents with Down's syndrome children say they have been made to feel guilty because the condition can so easily be detected



BRYAN APPELYARD

'If you were black you wouldn't have an operation to be white'

before birth so why did they not abort? Knowledge inverts traditional virtue – where once it would have been regarded as saintly to care for a handicapped child, now it becomes a wrong to yourself, the child and to a society that must bear the costs.

The clear point here is that the handicapped lobbyists are right. However smart we get the bandicapped will always be with us. One

third of muscular dystrophy cases arise from spontaneous mutation rather than heredity and are, therefore, not going to be detectable prenatally. Similarly most Down's syndrome children are born to young mothers who are not going to be tested. So, quite apart from the absolute injustice of the idea, any suggestion that the handicapped should not have been allowed to be born is not sustainable.

There will always be many people far from the normal majority. However, our ability to narrow certain curves – the distribution of deafness or shortness, for example – puts a new pressure on us all, the pressure of normality.

Of course, we all value human variety. At the most obvious level it is clearly desirable that people experience and understand the world in different ways. All art and innovation spring from imaginations that are, at least to some degree, abnormal. And even the most normal of us would live lives of undifferentiated drabness and selfishness were we never to come into contact with alien perspectives and different experiences.

Even cases of what seem to be evident handicap offer important versions of human experience. The world of the deaf is part of human culture. But, you might say, so is the world of the smallpox sufferer and nobody argues that suppressing that disease was a bad thing. Yet the spectrum of abnormality that runs from smallpox to deafness to shortness is not divided by clear moral lines. Evidently we would rather not have smallpox and, perhaps equally evidently, we would rather not be short. But the question then becomes: do we want everybody to be about the same height as us? Or what is so special about my height as opposed to yours?

Yet, however much we may value variation, when it comes to ourselves or our offspring, our courage tends to fail. There is nothing, you might say, wrong with homosexuality – but what if some future genetic test told you that the child you were carrying was destined to be gay? Being 5ft tall is not a moral condition – but would you accept growth hormone for your son if you were told that was his untreated fate?

The pressure to be normal may sound repellent, even totalitarian to the individualistic, liberal mind. But, in truth, it is a pressure that is embedded deep within us all because we fear the consequences of abnormality.

So the deaf lobbyists who oppose Ashley's crusade have a point. Their argument is that the hearing have no right to define something as a problem and then to impose a solution, to impose normality. I find this hard to accept because to be deprived of the audible world seems such an appalling fate, whatever the compensations of deaf culture. Nevertheless, their argument is profound and it foreshadows future dilemmas that will call into question our basic sense of ourselves and the world.

What is absolutely clear is that the human world was born of and thrives on variety. With the acquisition of the power to suppress some of that variety we must fight the tendency to stigmatise anything that can reasonably be regarded as healthy variation. If we do not then we are heading for the tyranny of the normal, a reign that will be as destructive as any other despotism.

Brutal? Only the critics

Daniel Libeskind's design for the V&A extension is brilliant despite the howls of outrage. Jonathan Glancey talks to the architect

If Daniel Libeskind is the devil, then I am more than happy to sup with him using the shortest spoon of all. Libeskind is the architect of the V&A's remarkable new £42m extension which, all being well, will open in 2001. But last week, when his challenging but brilliant designs were presented to the public, a familiar reaction followed.

Critics, led by Lord Rees-Mogg, the Times columnist, hissed it mercilessly. Rees-Mogg, absurdly, would have us believe that Libeskind travels infernal fellowship with chairman Mao and Jean-Paul Sartre, inviting us to take a walk in the desert with the evil for the good of our souls. Sartre, Mao and Libeskind and for the belief that a great war eruption through barbarism is the only to a brave world. Utter nonsense. To call Daniel Libeskind a thug is stupid. The Polish architect, a US citizen since 1965 and now living and working in Berlin, is one of the most civilised people an Englisher of the realm could hope to set. Libeskind is no closet idiot, no fan of Pol Pot. He not even a good old fashioned iconoclast.

A man whose family was destroyed by the Holocaust whose country of birth was ruled by Nazi and Communist alike, he believes passionately in building up European civilisation, not in tearing it down. That his buildings are expected and largely pre-announced and thus difficult to grasp like at first is not the same thing as saying that they are in any way brutal. They are not.

"There are two words engraved on the outside of the V&A that struck me when I first looked at the museum last year," says Libeskind taking me on a detailed tour of the proposed Boilerhouse Gallery. "These are Inspiration and Knowledge, and I guess these are what I'm trying to represent in the new building. It is like the V&A as a whole, a container of

The Boilerhouse will be one of the places to meet in the capital

knowledge built up over centuries and across civilisations; at the same time, the museum is there to inspire. Well this new building is going to try and do just that.

"When visitors come in from the street, they will be whooshed up in fast lifts to a great glazed tetrahedron on top of the building. This is a kind of dome of discovery, where the latest forms of information technology will offer a bespoke guide through the museum's vast collection to everyone who comes here. That should inspire them, I hope. Then, they can go up to the café at the very top and look across an extraordinary vista of Victorian domes and spires, a wonderland of architectural ideas and inspiration from around the globe and across time."

As they descend, the complex and inspirational logic of Libeskind's design will become clear to those with open minds

and eyes that see the seven storey building is a great concrete spiral, although the floors, despite what the unorthodox appearance of the building suggests, are on the level and nothing like, say, the awkward ramp that winds visitors up and around Frank Lloyd Wright's Guggenheim Museum in New York.

An architectural junction box, the Boilerhouse will connect the various parts of the labyrinthine V&A, as well as providing considerable space for temporary exhibitions and displays of contemporary arts, crafts and decorative arts.

Because the Boilerhouse will serve first and foremost as a gallery of things yet to come, the V&A has chosen a building that looks wholly to the future. No, it does not "fit in" with the existing streetscape; but then what exactly is there for an architect to "fit in" with in South Kensington's audacious and gloriously eclectic museum land?

The Boilerhouse is meant to be different. It does, however, take a major expenditure of the imagination to translate the pictures of the apparently wayward model seen in the newspapers into the workable and enable gallery it promises to be. But, imagine its crystal-like intersection of walls made of shimmering terracotta tiles, lit through with elongated windows allowing views through, up and down and into the heart of the new structure. Imagine people sitting below the Boilerhouse, lit ingeniously by lasers at night, on a custom designed bench running the length of the building – this will be one of the places to meet in the capital for Londoners and tourists alike.



Daring plan: the complex and inspirational logic of Libeskind's design will become clear to those with open minds Photographs: Geraint Lewis

Don't worry about one flop on the launch pad

Despite the fireworks over French Guiana, the European Space Agency is getting it right, argues Tom Wilkie

Even the acronyms are eloquent. The glamorous exploits of American astronauts on the moon missions of the space shuttle made NASA a familiar organisation. Until this week's spectacular fire in the maiden flight of the Ariane 5 rocket, ESA was shrouded in an obscurity that the initials of the European Space Agency have always to be spelled out. But the reality of space business is very different in the public relations hype. ESA is the most successful, efficient and effective space organisation in the world. NASA is a troubled organisation in deep crisis of morale and money. ESA makes modest demands on the public purse; NASA drains the coffers of the American taxpayer. A has a forward-looking programme of developing new rockets to put it in business in the next century; it is stuck with a technological disaster – the space shuttle – for which it cannot afford a replacement. ESA's Ariane 4 rocket – the predecessor to the one that blew up this week – is the most reliable satellite launcher in the world. Out of 80

launches, there have been only seven failures. ESA's commercial arm, Arianeespace, has captured around 60 per cent of the world's commercial satellite launching business – mainly communications, weather forecasting, and earth observation satellites. Its annual revenue exceeds \$1bn and its order book is comfortably full.

Immediately after the failure of Ariane 5, the president of Arianeespace, Claude Bigot, reminded journalists that the 87th satellite launch of the Ariane 4 was scheduled to take place in just eight days and that it would go ahead as planned. Ariane 4 has a wait-list of 43 launches, worth nearly \$5bn, including eight more scheduled for this year.

Stephane Chénard, an analyst at the Paris-based space consultancy Euroconsult, said that the private sector increasingly finances the commercial use of space, as banks realise they can achieve the 10 to 15 per cent return on investment they require. In the past, only governments dared put the stake money.

Demand from dynamic Asian economies will supply 25 to 30 per cent

of the market growth for satellites, says Olivier du Passage, a director at Le Blanc de Nicolay, a satellite insurer. From 1996 until 2010, between 350 and 530 satellites are expected to be launched, of which at least 236 would be for communications and television, M. Chénard said.

Ariane's share of that is estimated at \$25-\$40 bn, with the heavy-weight Ariane 5 key to Europe's market.

Against all the odds this is a European success story

ket share. The existing Ariane 4 will be obsolete within 10 years as payloads get heavier and Ariane 5 will be needed to provide the productivity, reliability and low cost that clients demand. Even so, the technical performance of Ariane 4 is superior to that of NASA's space shuttle, because the European launcher is capable of putting payloads into the coveted

"geostationary orbit" – a position in which the satellite orbits at the same rate as the earth turns on its axis and thus appears to "hang" in the sky, stationary over the same spot on earth. From this position it can constantly observe the weather, for example, and remain continuously in radio contact with the same ground station. Geostationary orbit is about 36,000km above the earth's surface. The space shuttle, in contrast, can reach only a low earth orbit of about 400km. The shuttle does have greater lifting power however, and can carry a satellite plus rocket in its cargo bay allowing a second launch, taking the satellite from low earth orbit up to geostationary.

And although Ariane is an expendable rocket, the European launcher is cheaper than the "reusable" shuttle, precisely because of that factor that attracts the PR hype: it costs money to meet the higher safety standards of manned missions.

It was not always thus. ESA was born out of the ashes of a botched attempt in the 1960s at giving Europe a place in space. Its predecessor, the European Launcher Development

Organisation, built the Europa rocket, based on the old British Blue Streak missile. It cost three times the original estimate; the rocket failed and the organisation was wound up in 1974.

It is a measure of ESA's achievement – and a testament to the diplomatic and managerial skills of its first director general, the Briton Roy Gibson – that out of the bitter recriminations of the mid-1970s, the agency has built up a successful commercial launcher business and has put in place a coherent programme of scientific research in space. ESA's annual budget of around \$3bn a year appears expensive, but it is less than a fifth of NASA's. Europe's total spending on space – military and civil, launcher technology as well as scientific research – is about 16 per cent of that of the US, even though the total GDP of ESA's member states is roughly comparable to the US.

Against all the odds, this is a European success story. The expensive fireworks display over French Guiana this week is no reason to question or doubt our membership of this particular European club.

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Lucas bid battle looms as BBA steps in

PATRICK TOOHER

The prospect of an all-out bidding war for Lucas intensified yesterday after the engineering group BBA said it was considering a rival takeover approach for the UK automotive and aerospace group.

News of BBA's interest cast a long shadow over the agreed £3.2bn merger Lucas announced only five days ago with Vario of the US. This would create the world's second largest truck manufacturer.

BBA, which at £1.2bn is only half the size of Lucas and about the same in market capitalisation terms as Vario, is expected to fund the deal with a paper offer, though a partial cash alternative is also likely to be made.

Lucas was scathing about BBA's ability to fund such a deal. A spokesman said: "There is no meaningful industrial case for a combination of BBA and Lucas. Furthermore, to make a credible offer for Lucas, BBA would be financially stretched to the limit with no ability to develop its businesses." Lucas advised shareholders to take no action until further notice.

The increased likelihood of a bid battle pushed shares in Lucas 8p higher to 254p, but fears of a huge rights issue sent BBA 21.5p lower to 295.5p.

Analysts also doubted that the industrial logic of the Lucas merger with Vario could be bettered by BBA. Lucas and Vario are strongly focused on the automotive sector, especially trucks and diesel systems, though BBA's main trump card is its friction unit, which is the market leader in Europe for car and truck brake pads.

Under the terms of the deal Lucas shareholders will receive 62 per cent of the enlarged capital, and Vario shareholders 38 per cent. The deal is not expected to be completed by September, leaving a small window of opportunity for a rival.

Lucas was another German engineering group motivated yesterday as a possible rival to Lucas, though Munich-based electronics giant Siemens ruled itself out of the running.

Courtaulds sacks its chief executive

JOHN WILLCOCK

Courtaulds Textiles has sacked its chief executive, Noel Jervis, and replaced him with executive director Colin Dyer, in a bid to improve the group's performance following its May profit warning.

Mr Jervis could receive around £500,000 compensation for being ousted from Courtaulds, where he has worked for 30 years, all his working life. The talks could last another fortnight.

John Eccles, Courtaulds' chairman, said: "Noel had an extremely good grasp of the industry, great ideas and the ability to see into the future."

"But implementation was not his strong point." He added: "He was strong on what we had to do, but weak on actually doing it. When we issued our profits warning in May there was a downgrading of forecasts (by analysts of our results). We had to look seriously at how we could change the situation and we came to the

conclusion that a change of leadership would help." Mr Eccles insisted there had been no pressure from institutional investors to sack Mr Jervis.

Courtaulds' shares dipped a penny to 378p on the news. The chairman said Mr Jervis had been earning £200,000-£250,000 a year and was on a two-year rolling contract. He said the company is currently in talks with its legal advisers and a decision on the exact amount of Mr Jervis' pay-off will be made shortly.

Six years after the demerger with Courtaulds, Mr Eccles said that the company has to continue to sharpen its focus on key clients like Marks & Spencer, and speed up moving out of businesses which are not core activities. "We have to continue to move our activities offshore into lower cost economies."

The board, he said, had reviewed the position of the company against the background of "difficult trading markets over the last year" and had decided that while the group's strategy

was sound, the pace of change needed to be speeded up.

"The directors thank Noel for his contribution to the company over his long period of service," he said.

The group's main areas, he said, will continue to include lace products, stretch and performance fabrics, other contract clothing, branded clothing and home furnishings and supplying Marks and Spencer.

Mr Dyer, who replaces Mr Jervis, is 43 and joined Courtaulds in 1982. His promotion to chief executive is from the position of executive director responsible for branded and own-label clothes, the firm said.

Mr Dyer's pay package has not yet been determined. His existing rolling two-year contract is worth £150,000-£200,000 a year.

Courtaulds Textiles said trading continued in line with its statement issued on 1 May. Then the group said an expected loss in its US operations would drag down group profits in the first half of 1996.

Comment, page 23



Company man: Noel Jervis, who could receive £500,000 in compensation. He had worked for Courtaulds for 30 years

Capital Radio sell-off

MATTHEW HORSMAN
Media Editor

Capital Radio's biggest shareholder is bailing out, selling 19 per cent stake in the fast growing media company to institutional investors. At a night's prices, the shares would fetch nearly £100m.

The disposal, being arranged by Goldman Sachs and Cazenove, could revive speculation that the radio group is ripe for takeover, analysts speculate last night. The sale ends a five year relationship between Capital and Havas, the French media giant, which intends to concentrate on investment opportunities on the Continent, particularly in pay-TV.

It bought the shares for 180p each in 1991, as a "strategic holding in UK radio, and to make close to 3.5 times its money, subject to deal costs."

Capital Radio has long been a target of takeover speculation due to changes in the Government's attitude toward cross media ownership and the rapid growth of commercial radio in the past three years.

The company runs two popular London radio stations Capital AM and FM - and plans to expand further in the UK and overseas. Commercial radio is the fastest growing medium in the UK, and accounts for about 4 per cent of total advertising spend.

Goldman Sachs and Cazenove plan to begin the bid building exercise this week closing 13 June. It is expected that the shares will receive wide distribution.

However, depending on the price fetched for the stake, analysts expected Capital to attract renewed interest in the eyes of predators. Leading the list of potential buyers is Associated Newspapers.

Watchdog casts fresh doubt on Energy sale

MAGNUS GRIMOND
and MICHAEL HARRISON

A fresh shadow was cast over the flotation of British Energy last night after Scottish Power warned that it might re-open a key nuclear electricity contract with the generator.

The warning followed an announcement from the industry regulator, Professor Stephen Littlechild, calling for price cuts of between 3 and 5 per cent for business and industrial users north of the border.

The director general of Office for Electricity Regulation, Professor Stephen Littlechild, said that customers, suppliers and others had expressed concern about the development of electricity competition in Scotland, highlighting the lower penetration of suppliers to the business market than in England and Wales.

The practice under which the two Scottish companies were meant to make electricity available to alternative suppliers at the current pool-market price was not working, he said, and was therefore no longer appropriate.

He therefore proposed that the price of electricity bound for the competitive second-tier market should be based on a formula which in England and Wales resulted in a level around 6 per cent lower than the pool selling price.

In Scotland, customers in the competitive market could expect to see cuts of between 3 and 5 per cent.

The move angered the two Scottish companies, as they will continue to be forced to buy the highly priced nuclear-generated electricity but suffer selling price cuts which they are unable to recover from customers due to increased competition.

gy's pathfinder prospectus due to be published on Monday. A spokeswoman said Professor Littlechild would not be gagged, but admitted that the prospectus would contain a list of forthcoming statements from Offer and a warning that he retained the right to deal with unforeseen events.

In a statement, the regulator said that customers, suppliers and others had expressed concern about the development of electricity competition in Scotland, highlighting the lower penetration of suppliers to the business market than in England and Wales.

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SwissAir wins Alders duty free battle

NIGEL COPE

SwissAir appeared to have won the lengthy battle for the Alders duty free business yesterday when it increased its offer to £160m, trumping an improved £145m deal made by rival BAA.

The battle looked lost for BAA when it said it was "not willing" to increase its offer any further. The company said it was not prepared to "spend shareholders' money on an unrealistic valuation." A spokesman for SwissAir's advisers, SBC War-

burg, was understandably more upbeat. "It looks like the end of the story," he said.

SwissAir's coup de grace capped a day of dramatic events which saw both companies increase their offers within hours of each other.

BAA led the way when it increased its original £130m agreed deal by £15m to match SwissAir's proposal. SwissAir then trumped it with a £160m offer in the afternoon.

It is not yet clear whether or not BAA will withdraw its lower offer or still present it to

Alders shareholders at an emergency meeting which is due to take place next Monday. BAA is expected to decide today if it will withdraw. If the meeting does take place and the offer is voted down, another meeting will have to be convened to approve the SwissAir deal.

Licking its wounds, BAA said it had already stated that it could see other ways in which it could develop its duty free business and would now explore those alternatives.

The auction has been good

news for Alders shareholders, who saw the group's shares rise a further 16p to 216p yesterday. Alders said: "We acknowledge that there is now a firm offer on the table from SwissAir. We now have to resolve some of the technical issues relating to that offer as quickly as possible in order to confidently put it to our shareholders in a form which is capable of being approved."

SwissAir representatives said they were confident they could make the Alders International business pay at the £160m

valuation. They said SwissAir recognised that the UK airport outlets would not be part of the deal as the management contracts will be taken up by BAA, which operates the airports. It also recognises that duty free shopping may disappear in Europe from 1999. However, they said that the store rental agreements were due for re-negotiation at the same time and that the new deals would reflect any European Union decision.

The company added that airport retailing is a fast-growing market.

Yorkshire postpones buy-back

PETER RODGERS
Financial Editor

Beleaguered Yorkshire Water came under fire yesterday from customers and the Labour Party for a substantial increase in profits and dividends last year.

But the company bowed to public outrage about its poor performance during the drought, by postponing a planned share buy-back until it has improved its relationship with customers.

The buy-back would have added substantially to the rewards for shareholders, but Yorkshire took the sting out of the postponement by promising the City handsome future increases in real dividends of between 6 per cent and 8 per cent each year - on top of inflation - to the year 2000.

This followed a decision to raise the latest year's dividend 12 per cent to 31p a share after an increase in pre-tax profits of 14 per cent to £162.2m. The profit came after extra

drought costs of £47m. Labour called the profits scandalous. Frank Dobson, the shadow environment secretary, said: "Under this government, the privatised companies are allowed to get away with anything - rip off customers, leak one-third of their water, damage the environment - yet they're not properly regulated and they pay next to no tax."



Frank Dobson: 'Scandalous profits' at Yorkshire

"Labour will introduce tough regulations to cut the leaks, protect customers and sustain the environment, and we will also impose a windfall levy on the scandalous profits to help finance our plans to provide work and training for young people."

Commenting on the postponed share buy-back, Brian Wilson, Yorkshire's finance director, said: "We believe the balance sheet is inefficient... but we must regain the confidence of customers first."

With takeover rumours in the air, he held out the prospect to the City that a share buy-back was still possible later this year. He said he would be "disappointed if (customer confidence) is not restored within this calendar year."

The absence of a buy-back depressed the share price, which fell 16p to 718p. Mr Wilson admitted that Yorkshire had made mistakes but said the priority now was "to get the core water business

firing on all six cylinders and customer confidence back."

He defended the dividend growth promise, saying the company would invest more than £600m over the next two years, which he claimed was five times as much as projected dividend increases.

Mr Wilson said the company had seen "a balanced year" between benefits for customers and shareholders. In return for its poor customer service, Ofwat, the water regulator, has made Yorkshire cap price increases at inflation instead of the previously allowed increases of 2.5 percentage points above inflation.

Yorkshire had to pay for tankers to import water from neighbouring areas during the supply shortage, contributing to the exceptional costs of £47.2m.

The company expressed confidence that action taken to secure supplies would prevent a repeat of last year's problems and avoid any further exceptional charges.

STOCK MARKETS					
FT-SE 100		Dow Jones		Nikkei	
3580	3580	7500	7500	22500	22500
3570	3570	7490	7490	21400	21400
3560	3560	7480	7480	20300	20300
3550	3550	7470	7470	19200	19200
3540	3540	7460	7460	18100	18100
3530	3530	7450	7450	17000	17000
3520	3520	7440	7440	15900	15900
3510	3510	7430	7430	14800	14800
3500	3500	7420	7420	13700	13700
Indices					
Index	Close	Day's change	Change (%)	1996 High	1996 Low
FTSE 100	3583.40	-1.80	-0.0	3657.10	3539.50
FTSE 250	4478.00	-19.50	-0.4	4598.00	4015.30
FTSE 350	1899.20	-2.30	-0.1	1945.40	1816.60
FT Small Cap	2239.10	+8.71	+0.3	2241.97	1984.06
FT All Share	1885.49	-1.60	-0.1	1924.17	1791.95
New York	5880.17	-5.54	-0.1	5778.00	3832.08
Tokyo	21881.43	+23.91	+0.1	22282.05	19734.70
Hong Kong	11092.51	+5.60	+0.1	11594.99	10204.87
Frankfurt	2552.53	+8.25	+0.2	2570.78	2253.36
Source: FT Information					

INTEREST RATES					
Short sterling		UK medium gilt		US long bond	
3 Months	5.50	5.50	5.50	7.00	7.00
6 Months	5.50	5.50	5.50	7.00	7.00
1 Year	5.50	5.50	5.50	7.00	7.00
2 Year	5.50	5.50	5.50	7.00	7.00
3 Year	5.50	5.50	5.50	7.00	7.00
4 Year	5.50	5.50	5.50	7.00	7.00
5 Year	5.50	5.50	5.50	7.00	7.00
Money Market Rates					
Index	1 Month	3 Month	6 Month	1 Year	Long-Term
UK	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	7.00
US	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	7.00
Japan	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	7.00
Germany	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	7.00
Bond Yields					
Index	1 Month	3 Month	6 Month	1 Year	Long-Term
UK	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	7.00
US	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	7.00
Japan	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	7.00
Germany	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	7.00
Commodity Prices					
Index	1 Month	3 Month	6 Month	1 Year	Long-Term
UK	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	7.00
US	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	7.00
Japan	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	7.00
Germany	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	7.00

CURRENCIES					
S/S		S/DM		S/Y	
1.5482	1.5482	1.5482	1.5482	1.5482	1.5482
1.5482	1.5482	1.5482	1.5482	1.5482	1.5482
1.5482	1.5482	1.5482	1.5482	1.5482	1.5482
1.5482	1.5482	1.5482	1.5482	1.5482	1.5482
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1.5482	1.5482	1.5482	1.5482	1.5482	1.5482
1.5482	1.5482	1.5482	1.5482	1.5482	1.5482
1.5482	1.5482	1.5482	1.5482	1.5482	1.5482
Dollar					
Index	Yesterday	Change	Year Ago	Index	Yesterday
S (London)	1.5482	-0.0017	1.5520	E (London)	0.6439
S (New York)	1.5480	unch	1.5505	E (New York)	0.6436
DM (London)	2.3575	-0.0088	2.2405	DM (New York)	1.5293
Y (London)	168.508	-0.454	134.289	Y (New York)	108.845
S (Frankfurt)	65.4	unch	64.2	S (Frankfurt)	97.2
Other Indicators					
Index	Yesterday	Day's chg	Year Ago	Index	Yesterday
Oil Brent	17.95	-0.21	17.87	RPI	192.8
Gold	387.60	-3.15	384.45	GDP	130.8
Gold 2	250.35	-1.75	242.11	Base Rates	6.00pc

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market report/shares

DATA BANK

FT-SE 100
3753.4 -1.8
FT-SE 250
4476.0 -16.5
FT-SE 350
1899.2 -2.3
SEAQ VOLUME
760.8m shares,
33,016 bargains
Gilts Index
92.30 -0.10

SHARE SPOTLIGHT



Rumours of drop in forecast damage Allied Domecq

Allied Domecq, the accident-prone drinks group, slumped to new lows as stories swept through the stock market that its stockbroker, Cazenove, had slashed its profit estimates.

At one time the shares were down 12.5p to 471.5p. They closed at 475p.

The rumour, like so many that try to enliven a dull day, was wide of the mark. The blue-blooded broker is sticking with its forecasts, which are not widely out of line with other projections, of £570m for this year and £630m for next.

If anything the Allied ferment highlighted the vulnerability of the group's shares. They have underperformed the market for years and in the past 12 months have fallen from a 539p high.

Trading has been disappointing, with the market fretting about weak spirit sales, the Mexican problems following the devaluation of the peso and

the lack of progress in the negotiations over its withdrawal from brewing.

It is believed Allied is a candidate to join the demerger bandwagon. There seems little to unite its extensive spirit operations with its ice cream to pub retailing side. Sir Christopher Hogg, new chairman, is famed for splitting Courtaulds into two stand-alone companies, chemicals and textiles. The market believes his salvation at Allied will be to follow a similar course, breaking the group into retailing and spirit businesses and selling the half share in the Carlsberg-Tetley brewage side.

The rest of the market had a going-nowhere session - the FT-SE 100 index, after a few uninspiring spurts, ended 1.8 points down at 3753.4. Tomorrow's US employment figures, which have achieved a reputation for wrong-footing the market, and fears of a big



MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

Stock market reporter of the year

cash-raising exercise, kept the lid on trading.

Utilities were ruffled by fears of a windfall tax following the Independent's disclosure of under-spending by the electricity, gas and water companies. The Government's decision not to send the US bid for Midlands Electricity to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission lifted the target's shares 17p to 442p. PowerGen, the generator blocked from buying an electricity distribution, spent more of its surplus cash completing the 10 per cent buy-in of its own shares, topping up 37.5 million through JBS at 483p. National Power managed a 9.5p gain to 523.5p

as the last apparent hurdle was cleared for its 100p-a-share special dividend. The Scottish groups, under pressure from the regulator over prices, were dull, with ScottishPower, pondering its bid for Southern Water, off 9p to 309p.

Lucas Industries motored 8p to 254p as BBA decided to break its silence and say it was after all contemplating a bid that would put the brakes on the proposed merger with Varsity of the US.

A counter-bid had been widely expected but there are clearly serious doubts whether BBA has the necessary muscle to force through a deal. Cazenove is said to be telling its

clients another bidder lurks, with German groups such as Mannesmann (possibly in conjunction with TI Group) the most likely to barge into the costly Lucas/Varity deal. BBA fell 21.5p to 295.5p, a two-day fall of 32.5p.

Blenheim, the exhibitions group, duly confirmed a takeover approach and the shares jumped 70p to 409p. Allidors added 16p to 216p on the growing interest in its duty-free side.

Imperial Chemical Industries was unchanged at 851p as Salomon Brothers said buy and Morgan Crucible rose 15p to 447p with Credit Lyonnais Laing suggesting a re-rating with profits of £90m this year and £122m in 1988.

Barclays managed a further 7.5p gain to 781.5p following its analysts' briefings, with NatWest Securities raising its forecast from £2.189bn to £2.239bn. Burton, reflecting

analysts' meetings, rose 3.5p to 157.5p. Tesco, up 8p at 313.5p, continued to draw strength from its move into financial services.

Tom Cobleigh, the managed pubs chain, jumped 20p to 250p. Its main venture capitalist backer, European Acquisition Capital, has found the strength of the shares irresistible and decided to sell its 50 per cent stake. The EAC declaration coincided with stories that the much smaller Surrey Free Press, where Whitbread has apparently built a 4 per cent stake, intends to bid. Surrey fell 6p to 232p.

Capital Radin was little changed at 696p. After the market closed the French IP group said it intended to sell its 19 per cent shareholding.

Caix, the waste disposal group, gained 39p to 288p following a surprisingly strong trading statement which forecast a return to dividends.

TAKING STOCK

Bluebird, the toys group, is creating interest. The shares gained 27p to 275p after 284p.

They have risen 46p in two days reversing a fall from 385p in the past year which saw a share buy-in at more than 300p. There is speculation of a takeover bid from the United States with one of the leading transatlantic toy makers thought to be interested.

Home Counties Newspapers, unchanged at 145p, must be wondering whether its long-term relationship with Emap is about to end. The newspaper group has 24.5 per cent of Home Counties, a stake which must look decidedly vulnerable following its decision to sell its regional newspapers. Emap also has more than 20 per cent of Metal Bulletin, easier at 995p.

Share Price Data

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items. Over details: 7 Ex rights & Ex dividend & Ex all in United Securities Market & Suspended for Parity Paid per Nil Paid Shares. Source: FT Information

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Market leaders: Top 20 volumes

Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume
PowerGen	880,000	Grain Ltd	140,000	Rolls Royce	100,000	ASDA Group	50,000
Lucas	170,000	National Power	100,000	Telecom	70,000	BP	50,000
BT	100,000	BT	100,000	Publishers	50,000	Light 133	50,000
Imperial	100,000	Cadbury Schweppes	50,000	South British	50,000	South & North	50,000
Vodafone	100,000	Harrold	50,000	Rolls Royce	50,000	Glenvalley	50,000

FT-SE 100 Index Hour by Hour

Open 37582 up 40	10.00 37558 up 04	12.00 37608 down 44
09.00 37536 down 18	11.00 37519 down 33	13.00 37658 down 54
		15.00 37689 down 53

Alcoholic Beverages

Stock	Price	Change	Vol
Allied Domecq	475	-12.5	12.5
Carlsberg	471.5	-12.5	12.5
Tetley	475	-12.5	12.5

Banks, Merchant

Stock	Price	Change	Vol
Barclays	781.5	+7.5	7.5
NatWest	781.5	+7.5	7.5
HSBC	781.5	+7.5	7.5

Banks, Retail

Stock	Price	Change	Vol
First National	781.5	+7.5	7.5
City of London	781.5	+7.5	7.5
London & Lancashire	781.5	+7.5	7.5

Diversified Industrials

Stock	Price	Change	Vol
Imperial Chemical	851	0	0
Lucas Industries	254	+8	8
Rolls Royce	409	+70	70

Breweries, Pubs & Rest

Stock	Price	Change	Vol
Carlsberg	471.5	-12.5	12.5
Tetley	475	-12.5	12.5
Allied Domecq	475	-12.5	12.5

Electricity

Stock	Price	Change	Vol
PowerGen	523.5	+9.5	9.5
ScottishPower	309	-9	9
National Power	483	+37.5	37.5

Building/Construction

Stock	Price	Change	Vol
PowerGen	523.5	+9.5	9.5
ScottishPower	309	-9	9
National Power	483	+37.5	37.5

Electronics

Stock	Price	Change	Vol
PowerGen	523.5	+9.5	9.5
ScottishPower	309	-9	9
National Power	483	+37.5	37.5

Food Manufacturers

Stock	Price	Change	Vol
PowerGen	523.5	+9.5	9.5
ScottishPower	309	-9	9
National Power	483	+37.5	37.5

Food Distribution

Stock	Price	Change	Vol
PowerGen	523.5	+9.5	9.5
ScottishPower	309	-9	9
National Power	483	+37.5	37.5

Health Care

Stock	Price	Change	Vol
PowerGen	523.5	+9.5	9.5
ScottishPower	309	-9	9
National Power	483	+37.5	37.5

Household Goods

Stock	Price	Change	Vol
PowerGen	523.5	+9.5	9.5
ScottishPower	309	-9	9
National Power	483	+37.5	37.5

Insurance

Stock	Price	Change	Vol
PowerGen	523.5	+9.5	9.5
ScottishPower	309	-9	9
National Power	483	+37.5	37.5

Investment Companies

Stock	Price	Change	Vol
PowerGen	523.5	+9.5	9.5
ScottishPower	309	-9	9
National Power	483	+37.5	37.5

Investment Trusts

Stock	Price	Change	Vol
PowerGen	523.5	+9.5	9.5
ScottishPower	309	-9	9
National Power	483	+37.5	37.5

Leisure & Hotels

Stock	Price	Change	Vol
PowerGen	523.5	+9.5	9.5
ScottishPower	309	-9	9
National Power	483	+37.5	37.5

Life Assurance

Stock	Price	Change	Vol
PowerGen	523.5	+9.5	9.5
ScottishPower	309	-9	9
National Power	483	+37.5	37.5

Media

Stock	Price	Change	Vol
PowerGen	523.5	+9.5	9.5
ScottishPower	309	-9	9
National Power	483	+37.5	37.5



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Bid approach sends Blenheim shares soaring

NIGEL COPE

Blenheim Group, the exhibitions company which has experienced wildly fluctuating fortunes in the past five years, was at the centre of bid speculation yesterday after the company said it had received an approach that might lead to an offer.

Blenheim shares soared 70p to 409p as the market settled on United News and Media as the most likely candidate to make a move. Other possibilities include Reed Elsevier, Enap or an overseas suitor, possibly from the United States.

If United did succeed with the deal it would be its first acquisition since the £3bn merger between United and MAI in February.

The current price values Blenheim at £378m, though any formal offer is likely to be at a far higher price as it would need to be an agreed deal. A third of Blenheim's shares are held by the directors and the French group Compagnie Generale des Eaux. Some analysts suggested that an offer price could have to be as high as 470p per share.

After its initial statement,

made to explain the sharp rise in its share price on Tuesday, Blenheim declined to comment further yesterday.

Blenheim has led a roller-coaster existence in recent years. It was one of the market's glamour stocks in the late 1980s and early 1990s when the share price hit 600p. The company's flamboyant management, led by current chairman Neville Buch, then claimed the company was recession-proof, a comment that came back to haunt them. Recent years have been littered by profits warnings and top level departures as the

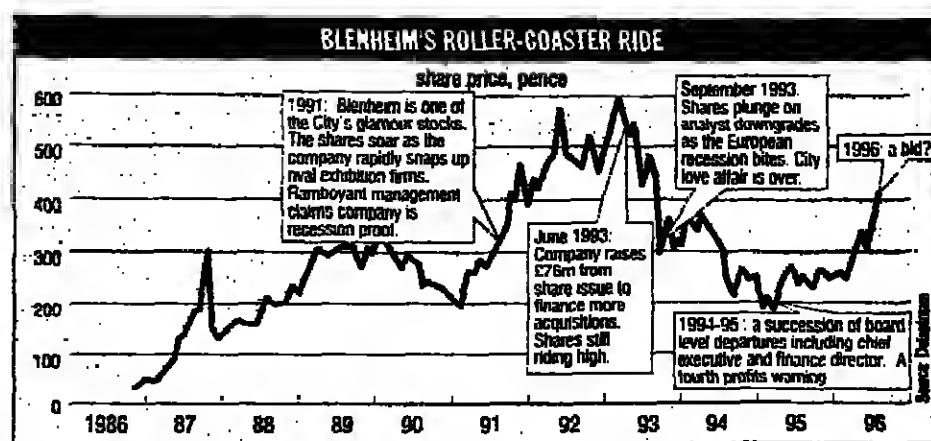
company ran into the downturn. More recently however, there have been signs of improvement and analysts are forecasting profits of £35m.

United News and Media is seen as the most likely predator as it is known to be keen to expand its exhibitions business. At the time of the United-MAI merger, MAI chairman Lord Hollick indicated that there was scope to expand the group's exhibitions business.

Reed and Enap have looked at Blenheim before but at much lower prices than these. Anthony de Larroque, media analyst at

Pannure Gordon said: "The ball is in Lord Hollick's court. Either he can come in quickly with an offer or go away and pretend nothing happened."

United's exhibitions and magazines division, Miller Freeman, organised more than 200 exhibitions last year including one of the world's largest, the Asia Pacific Leather Fair. Last year the exhibitions business recorded profits of £24.6m on sales of £93.6m. It is strongest in the US while Blenheim is a major player in the UK and Europe. Blenheim organised around 200 shows in more than 63 countries last year.



Jarvis Hotels float to raise £133m

NIGEL COPE

Jarvis Hotels, the mid-market hotels group which specialises in leisure breaks, is to be priced at between 150p and 170p per share when it comes to the stock market later this month. The flotation will raise £133m and value the company at £281m at the mid-market price of 160p.

However, analysts believe that the popularity of hotel company flotations and the bullish forecasts for the market will push the price and market value towards the top end of the range.

One analyst said: "You've had the Millennium and Cophorne flotations as well as Macdonald Hotels and others are sure to follow. It is a very opportune time to come to the market."

Jarvis Hotels operates 62 hotels in the three-star category. It focuses on the business, conference and short-break leisure market and also runs the Sebastian Cox Health Clubs.

The company will use the fresh funds to reduce its £112m debt to £60m. This will cut gearing from 182 per cent to 29 per cent. Management, led by founder John Jarvis and David Thomas, plan to add around

600 bedrooms to the existing 5,000. Acquisitions are also expected.

Jarvis was created in 1990 following a management buy-in of the 41 Embassy Hotels from Allied Breweries. Its second largest deal was the purchase of 20 hotels from Resort Hotels in 1994.

The group's occupancy levels are relatively low at 64 per cent, though the company says this is improving from a low base under previous owners. Its room rates have improved from £36 to £39 in the last year.

Mr Thomas did not give specific details in current trading but said it was "encouraging". Last year the company made pre-tax profits of £9m on sales of £102m.

Three quarters of the company's equity is owned by the venture capital groups Candover and Electra, which are selling a third of their holdings. Chief executive John Jarvis is selling almost a million shares, which will net him £1.4m. David Thomas, deputy chief executive, is selling 330,000 shares which will raise £500,000.

Jarvis has timed its flotation well as the hotels industry is kindly viewed by investors at the moment and forecasts are for strong product demand. Pannel

Kerr Forster is predicting strong demand into the next century. As relatively little new capacity is being added to the market, this will benefit the existing operators. Additionally, demographics are on the side of companies such as Jarvis, which operate the kind of leisure breaks that are popular with older age-groups. Stakis, the hotels company which reported results earlier this week, says some of its customers take 17 such breaks a year.

Mr Thomas confirmed the optimistic view: "It's a good, upbeat market at the moment. Demand is continuous and there is relatively little new capacity."

The pricing values the company on a price/earnings ratio of 16. This is not considered cheap but is more competitive than the Millennium and Cophorne listings which were heavily over-subscribed.

The Jarvis listing is a placing with 10 per cent of the share reserved for intermediaries who have until 20 June to register their applications. Six share shops are handling the issue on behalf of smaller shareholders, including ShareLink in Birmingham. Dealings in the shares are expected to commence on 28 June.

Racal remains on track to offer jam tomorrow

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY MAGNUS GRIMOND

Sir Ernest Harrison, chairman of Racal Electronics and member of the Jockey Club, has spent a lifetime taking big bets in business that have largely come good. Having seen off a bid for Racal from Cable & Wireless in 1988, he despatched a hostile bid from the Williams conglomerate three years later by spinning off the mobile phone group Vodafone and emerging the Chubb security operations.

Shorn of its main money-spinners and left with a rag-bag of under-performing data communications and defence systems, the Racal rump was thought to be worth next to nothing by some analysts. In the event Racal's profits and share price have galloped ahead, helped in part by a series of acquisitions. The latest, the £133m purchase of British Rail Telecoms, is already reaping considerable rewards for Racal. It made a maiden contribution of £7.6m to group pre-tax profits 21 per cent higher at £70.4m in the year to March.

BRT allows Racal to use its 16,000km network rather than lease lines from BT. And BRT has its own in-built customer base in the shape of newly-privatised Railtrack, the owner of the railway's signals, tracks and stations which account for the bulk of BRT's revenues. BRT also puts Racal in a better position to compete for lucrative business communications contracts and prestige projects.

Racal has been lucky in other areas as well, most appropriately in gambling, which makes up a quarter of group profits. The biggest windfall has come from the group's 22.5 per cent stake in National Lottery operator Camelot, which chipped in profits of £15.2m.

But not all of Sir Ernest's charges are in such good form. Indeed, the shares slipped back 16p to 304p on news that Racal was taking a £20m restructuring charge to cover the costs of getting data products, part of the data communications division, back into the black in 1997-98. A factory in Warrington is closing with the loss of up to 180 jobs, US manufacturing activities are being consolidated on a site in Fort Lauderdale and 17 stand-alone businesses are coming together.

The potential swing at data products, which lost about £20m last year, could be £35m if Paul Kozlowski, the division's new US boss, presses the right buttons. Shareholders should not hold their breath. For despite its recent success, Racal is developing a reputation for promising jam tomorrow. For example, the Ministry of Defence is not expected to award the £22m Bowman army radio contract until 1998, a year later than expected. Racal has no choice but to continue funding half the

£100m cost of the project, leading to hefty over-runs. House broker NatWest Securities has pared back its 1997 profit forecasts from £86m to £74m, implying a PE ratio of 18. High enough.

Waddington sheds the losers

John Waddington's fame amongst the general public has always been as maker of Monopoly, the board game, but the City knows it better for its unerring ability to seek out banana skins. The games business is long gone and the company must be hoping that its latest set of results means it can also dump its accident-prone reputation.

The figures were distorted by acquisitions and disposals over the past two years. Stated pre-tax profits fell from £53.3m to £11.1m in the year to March, but the previous year included a £30.8m gain on the sale of the games business, while there was a £13.8m loss on disposals in the latest period, mostly the Plastona plastic

food cartons operation. The sale of Plastona should remove the last of Waddington's underperformers and give an immediate boost to results by eliminating trading losses that deepened from £1.7m to £2.4m last year.

Elsewhere, the plastic plates and cutlery side, badly affected by recent raw material price increases, did well to raise profits by a third to £7.3m last year. Pharmaceutical packaging - pill boxes and the like - is another star. Boosted by last year's IP Container purchase in the US, which chipped in the bulk of last year's £2.34m contribution from acquisitions, profits soared from £2.4m to £6.1m. The continued trend to so-called self-medication and over-the-counter medicines suggests the future is set fair for this division.

More questionable is whether the specialist printing operation, mainly involved in direct marketing to the financial services industry, can sustain its current growth once the bonfire of building society consolidations and Otations passes. Waddington also has to prove that it can win work from big customers like Unilever and Nestlé, moving to pan-European sourcing to

justify its investment in capacity, which is 15 per cent surplus to requirements. The orders are reasonable, with two orders already secured, but at number 10 in the European pecking order, Waddington may have to work hard. Profits of £30m this year would put the shares, up 6p at 248p, on a very reasonable forward multiple of 12. That could prove reasonable value, but investors should proceed with caution.

Powerscreen beats doldrums

Powerscreen International, a maker of screening and crushing equipment, is a rare and largely unsung success story from Northern Ireland. In the last five years, the group has more than tripled turnover and more than doubled earnings per share.

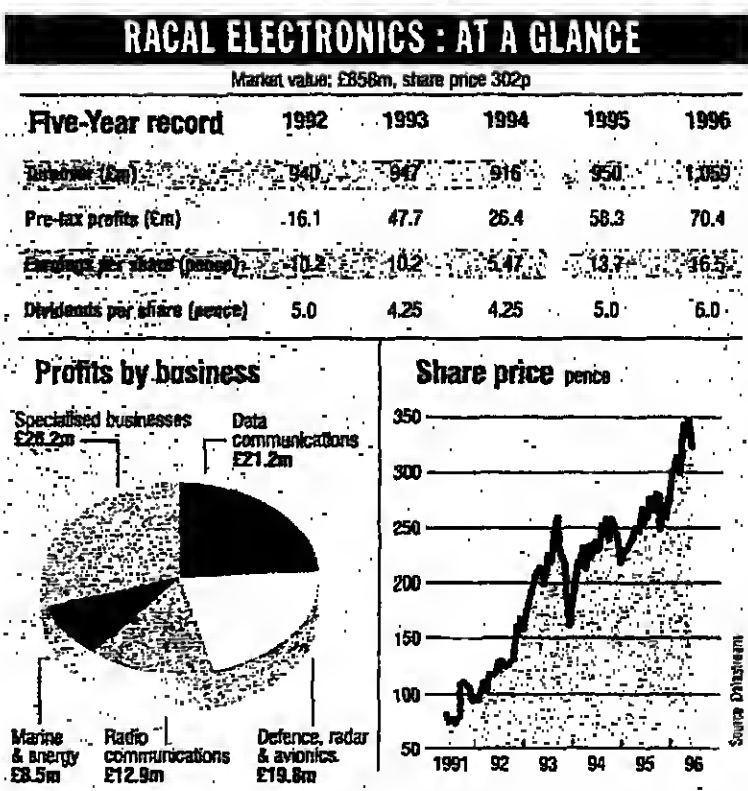
That has taken pre-tax profits to £36m in the 12 months to March, up 24 per cent on the previous year, on turnover increased by nearly a third to £261m.

These sparkling results were achieved despite recession in Germany and the continued doldrums of the UK construction industry.

The secret of Powerscreen's success is its strong market positions in portable equipment, where it commands around 40 per cent of the world market for screening plant and holds the leading position in the manufacture of crushers in Europe. This has allowed it to cash in on the increased importance attached to maximising utilisation of land-fill sites in the wake of ever tightening planning restrictions. Powerscreen reckons that it can add between 30 and 40 per cent to the value of waste by, for instance, crushing demolition waste on site, screening out reusable materials and in the process reducing the space required to dispose of the residue of unusable product.

Meanwhile, the portability of Powerscreen's equipment also gives it an edge for quarry operators, who are increasingly being limited by planning rules to the time during which they can operate sites, making it uneconomical to install fixed plant.

The company reckons the UK market alone is growing at between 25 and 30 per cent and it also sees further scope for growth in the US, Continental Europe and Asia Pacific. Group profits close to £42m this year would put the shares at 467p, down 4p, on a forward multiple of 13. Good value, even after their strong run over the past year.



Nationwide ends bonus hopes

CLIFFORD GERMAN

Nationwide, the standard-bearer of mutual building societies, dashed any hopes its members may have had of a windfall bonus yesterday and renewed its commitment to paying "interim dividends" in the shape of higher savings rates for investors and cheaper mortgages for borrowers.

It also reported a 33 per cent leap in profits to £459m in the year to 4 April, helped by a 19 per cent drop in bad debt provisions to £124m, a further improvement in cost control for the eighth year in a row, and an

upturn in market share after several years of gradual decline.

Helped mainly by a campaign to attract more business through intermediaries, new lending recovered by 37 per cent, even excluding the acquisition of the UCB Home Loans loan book. The margin between rates charged to borrowers and rates paid out to savers widened slightly in the society's favour from 2.41 per cent to 2.45 per cent and net interest receivable rose by 6 per cent to £907m.

But other income fell by a quarter to £146m, reflecting a fall in income from insurance commissions caused by the

tough competition in the market place. Total income was actually static at £1,056m. But the society's administrative costs fell by 7 per cent to £469m and the ratio of costs to income dipped to 44.5 per cent, which is four points below the average of the top 10 societies. Eight years previously it was 65.2 per cent, and significantly above the average for the top 10 societies.

The outlook remains good, and should ensure that Nationwide will uphold its promise to pay out £200m worth of interim dividends to its members in the current year.

2 FOR 1 ODEON CINEMA TICKET OFFER WITH THE INDEPENDENT

To celebrate 100 years of British cinema we have linked up with Odeon Cinemas to offer all readers two tickets for the price of one at participating Odeon Cinemas throughout the UK. Among the films showing next week are *Primal Fear*, *From Dusk Till Dawn*, *Mr Holland's Opus*, *Muppet Treasure Island*, *Spy Hard*, *The Birdcage*, *Copcat*, *Things To Do In Denver When You're Dead*, *Toy Story*, *Executive Decision* and more.

How to Qualify
The offer is valid until Thursday 13 June 1996. Simply collect three differently numbered tokens from the twelve we will be printing in *The Independent* and *The Independent* on Sunday. Token 6 is printed today; Token 7 will be printed in *The Independent* tomorrow. Attach them to the voucher which is printed today and again on Sunday 9 and Wednesday 12 June. Then take the voucher to a participating Odeon Cinema to qualify for your free cinema ticket when you purchase another. To find out where your local Odeon Cinema is simply call Talking Pages on 0800 600900.

Copcat (certificate 18), starring Signourney Weaver and Holly Hunter, is a classic suspense thriller about a race against time to find and stop an obsessed serial killer on the loose in San Francisco.

From Dusk Till Dawn (certificate 18), tells the story of the notorious Gecko Brothers (George Clooney & Quentin Tarantino), two of America's most dangerous criminals, who are on the run from the Texas police and the FBI after a crime spree through the Southwest. Also starring are Harvey Keitel and Juliette Lewis.

In Muppet Treasure Island (certificate U), the Muppets are back and ready to cast off and set sail on their zaniest adventure ever, as they encounter pirates, buried treasure and some angry warthogs, in Walt Disney Pictures' all-new, live-action, musical feature.

Spy Hard (certificate PG), stars Leslie Nielsen as Agent WD-40, a.k.a. Steele - Dick Steele in a comedy of high-tech gadgetry and lowbrow humour.

In Toy Story (certificate PG), six year old Andy's toys have a life of their own when left alone. Led by Andy's favourite toy Woody, the fearless pull-string cowboy doll, the toys live a quiet life of dedication to their master. All this is thrown into jeopardy on Andy's birthday, the most dreaded day in the life of a toy, when the fear of being replaced by another toy can become a reality.

Primal Fear (certificate 18), stars Richard Gere as the arrogant and successful criminal defence attorney Martin Vail. He loves a good fight and the media spotlight, both of which he knowingly invites when he volunteers to represent a young man accused of murder. The victim is one of Chicago's most prominent dignitaries, and the defendant's guilt seems as evident as the blood found splattered on his clothes. However Vail does not concern himself with questions of guilt or innocence, all he cares about is winning.



THE INDEPENDENT **INDEPENDENT**
ON SUNDAY

2 FOR 1 ODEON CINEMA TICKET OFFER

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- The 'free' ticket may only have a value equal to, or less than, the purchased ticket (i.e. the purchase of a child's ticket will not entitle an adult to free admission).
- The voucher is only valid for admission to any film showing at Odeon Cinemas between 3 June - 13 June 1996.
- The voucher is only valid when three differently numbered tokens are attached from *The Independent* or *The Independent* on Sunday.
- This offer may not be used in conjunction with any other offer or discount.
- Odeon standard terms and conditions of purchase apply.
- The voucher may not be used for telephone bookings and does not give the holder preference over other customers.
- Odeon Cinemas reserve the right to refuse admission.
- This offer does not apply to Odeon Leicester Square & Mezzanine, and the Odeon West End.
- Photocopies of tokens are not acceptable.

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German economic winter shows first signs of thaw

IMRE KARACS
Bonn

Although you might need a microscope to spot them, the green shoots of recovery are becoming visible in Germany, raising hopes that the slump of recent months would, as the government predicted, be temporary.

Figures released yesterday by the German Economic Ministry show that industrial output bounced back in April by a seasonally adjusted 1.4 per cent, fuelled largely by a powerful surge in the building sector. In the former East Germany, construction activity expanded by 13.2 per cent, although it registered little change in the west.

Improving performance was reflected in the jobless figures. Seasonally adjusted unemployment fell by 62,000 to 3.93 million in April, the first drop in nine months.

The latest figures add to the trickle of statistics indicating

that the worst might be over for Germany. Last week the first rise in foreign orders was detected since the end of 1995, and the IFO research institute's business confidence index has also started to climb.

Nevertheless, Günter Rexrodt, the Economics Minister, warned yesterday that the "growth pause", as the government describes its mini-recession, may not have run its full course. "But the



normalisation of the mark and wage moderation in many areas give us hope the economy will come out of its weak phase and return to growth in the medium term," Mr Rexrodt said.

Most economists agree that Germany has been in the middle of an M-shaped curve, with growth inevitably resuming after six months in the doldrums. So far, the cycle is on target. The Federal Statistics Office confirmed yesterday that the economy had shrunk in the first quarter of this year, following a downturn in the last quarter of 1995. By Anglo-Saxon standards, two successive quarters of negative growth add up to a recession, but Bonn insists on a less rigorous definition.

Either way, the government had budgeted for stagnation, and received instead a 0.5 per cent fall in the two successive quarters. The discrepancy is blamed on the long, hard winter, which froze the building sector. The question is whether the

latest upswing should be attributed to the sunny weather or to economic recovery.

The government points to an improving economic climate, especially the falling mark and interest rates that are almost at a historic low, as evidence of a fundamental shift in industry's favour. Destocking, which suppressed demand through the winter, also seems to be over.

But whether all these circumstances will add up to a surge that will make up for the losses of the last six months is a subject of heated debate among economists. Official forecasts for this year's overall growth rate have been revised downwards several times, to a paltry 0.5-0.9 per cent.

Next year's performance will be crucial. Anything less than the 2 per cent forecast by the government would leave a large shortfall in revenue, thwarting German efforts to meet the Maastricht criteria for European Monetary Union.



Looking for an end to recession: Günter Rexrodt, the Economics Minister (right), believes the 'growth pause' may not be over

CITY DIARY

JOHN WILLCOCK

A black day for white tie at Lord Mayor's banquet

The Lord Mayor's dinner at the Banqueting House for the Chancellor and the City's great and good will never be the same again. The organisers have dropped the traditional requirement for white tie from next week's function, and henceforward guests will dress in the much less fancy, but more convenient, black tie.

Sources say there was a mini-rebellion by City bigwigs, sick and tired of the time taken to hire the white tie outfits, and then to put the outfits on, shirt studs and all. What- ever occurred - chicken in the basket washed down with pints of Boddingtons? It is certainly bad news for Moss Bros, which rents the gear out. It claims the slack will be taken up by guests hiring black tie.

But surely many own their own black tie gear? A Moss Bros spokesman said: "We find that quite a lot of business people don't own black tie suits - like politicians, their waist sizes expand and contract at a rate of knots, so they prefer to hire a suit each time." Ken Clarke's waistline to contract? Perish the thought.

Business people should have at least "a swift half" at lunchtime. Forget that fuzzy mineral water. Changes in drinking habits have hit the brewing and pub trade hard in recent years, says John Young, chairman of the South London brewer Young's. "We have had a good year in difficult trading circumstances but it would have been better had

it not been all work and no play for an increasing number of people."

Mr Young is positively lyrical about the benefits of a lucho-time tittle in tackling stress and recharging the batteries after a hard morning's work. Driving a dry horse and brewer's cart through most businesses' policies on drinking, he concludes: "Companies would do better to combat stress in the workplace by educating their staff in sensible drinking rather than stopping drinking altogether, especially as it is now recognised that a drop of beer does you good."

Speaking as a journalist, I couldn't possibly comment. Sir Ernest Harrison, chairman of Rascal Electronics, clearly agrees with Mr Young. In fact yesterday the electronics boss went one step better. After announcing Rascal's results, Mr Harrison ordered a glass of white wine - at 11.30 in the morning. Bottoms up!

Enterprise Oil is teaching Shell International and Amerasia Hess how to run an oil business. Enterprise has invented a fab new computer game for oil industry high-flyers, which will teach them how best to succeed in the industry. Each team starts with £100m and must maximise profits, assets and share price to win. Two other oil companies have shown commendable humility by buying the "Oil Game" from Enterprise - Shell and Amerasia Hess, the giant American company.

ING Barings has sent us a news release on a forthcoming seminar in London and Edinburgh to discuss investment opportunities - in Singapore. The meetings will be organised by the Singapore Stock Exchange. I was trying to think of a suitable slogan for the seminar. How about: "Your investment can go down by £860m as well as up." Considering Barings' former investment in Nick Leeson's activities in Singapore, this must be the ultimate triumph of optimism over experience.

COMPANY RESULTS

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Amers (F)	17.3m (19.3m)	1.78m (0.80m)	18.8p (9p)	4p (1p)
Calsonic (F)	161m (157m)	0.83m (0.88m)	12.9p (14p)	6.5p (1p)
Hendy (F)	- (-)	20.8m (37.1m)	13.4p (7p)	7.5p (7.5p)
OMI International (F)	45.4m (40.3m)	14.0m (4.2m)	19.4p (4.8p)	nil (-)
Powergen (F)	261m (197m)	0.42m (0.36m)	9.2p (8.1p)	7p (9p)
Powergen Int'l (F)	1.08m (0.50m)	70.4m (58.3m)	16.5p (13.7p)	9p (9p)
Shanks & McEwen (F)	114m (138m)	18.5m (14.5m)	8.8p (4.3p)	9p (9.5p)
Stevenson Int'l (F)	372m (342m)	23.2m (20.2m)	18.4p (13.6p)	9p (9.5p)
J. Widdows (F)	293m (258m)	11.9m (53.3m)	7.45p (40.28p)	8.4p (5.7p)
Yorkshire Water (F)	580m (549m)	1.65m (142m)	72p (65.5p)	31p (28.8p)
Young & Co's Brewery (F)	73.9m (72.0m)	8.23m (5.31m)	26.87p (27.1p)	7.85p (-)
Alfred Hitchcock (F)	383.4m (358m)	42.1m (30.3m)	5.76p (7.05p)	2.86p (2.5p)
Anglo Irish (F)	26.5m (26.5m)	1.3m (1.5m)	3.4p (3.8p)	1.3p (1.35p)
Arad Holdings (F)	52.6m (47.5m)	19.5m (51.8m)	68.9p (98.7p)	4p (1p)
Capital Group (F)	8.85m (7.15m)	1.31m (1.11m)	9.48p (8.59p)	4p (1p)
Chubb Group (F)	19.58m (14.68m)	0.99m (1.81m)	8.8p (8.2p)	3.7p (3.7p)
De La Rue (F)	723.2m (747.1m)	147.9m (148.5m)	50.5p (55.1p)	23.75p (23p)
EMAP (F)	705m (547.1m)	78.2m (63.9m)	24.5p (22.2p)	11.2p (8.75p)
MEPC (F)	- (-)	57m (80.4m)	11.5p (11.5p)	5.25p (5.25p)
National Grid (F)	1.49m (1.43m)	618.5m (610.8m)	25p (25.8p)	25p (25.8p)
Quinn & Robinson (F)	23.97m (23.51m)	0.29m (0.13m)	1.16p (42.58p)	nil (-)
RT Capital Partners (F)	- (-)	4.5m (1.1m)	1.5p (1.57p)	1.65p (1.55p)
Robert Whitson (F)	148.3m (107.9m)	8.85m (7.02m)	8p (7.28p)	3.1p (2.75p)
Robt (F)	3.24m (2.85m)	3.03m (2.74m)	2.27p (2.25p)	0.56p (0.8p)
Samuel Smith Estates (F)	4.44m (3.52m)	3.15m (2.83m)	9.4p (8.7p)	5.81p (5.1p)
Scottish Widows (F)	11.59m (10.68m)	1.82m (1.85m)	8p (10.5p)	2.85p (2.25p)
St James's Place Capital (F)	- (-)	47.5m (20.4m)	13.7p (5.7p)	3.3p (3p)
Thames Water (F)	1.18m (1.17m)	32.4m (30.3m)	50.7p (71.3p)	38p (25.3p)
TLS (F)	280.4m (354.8m)	28.6m (19.1m)	10.2p (9.3p)	4.3p (5.5p)

(F) - Final (P) - Prelim

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A FINAL BURST OF ENERGY

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Epsom in a call to the multitude

Saturday's Derby has a tough task in attracting crowds. Greg Wood reports

For a millionaire sports fan with a helicopter and a full tank of petrol, this weekend has the potential to be the experience of a lifetime. On Saturday, you could catch the opening session of the First Test between England and India at Edgbaston in Birmingham, fly to Epsom for the Derby at 2.25pm, and then make a swift exit towards Wembley with just enough time to spare to catch the Euro '96 kick-off between England and Switzerland.

The problem for the organisers of these events, of course, is that the average sports fan does not have such resources at their disposal, and in Britain this Saturday the competition for the pound in their pockets is fiercer than ever before.

While England's match at Wembley sold out before Christmas, those who must sell tickets for the alternative attractions have been forced, to a greater or lesser extent, to react to the challenge of the country's most important sporting event for 30 years.

The threat has been felt most keenly at Epsom, which has gone so far as to move the Derby, which pre-dates both international cricket and football, in its traditional place in mid-afternoon. The world's most famous Classic will now be the second race on Saturday's card, sandwiched between two handicaps, to permit both television viewers and racegoers, should they so wish, to devote the remainder of the afternoon to football.

Diamond-vision screens at Epsom will show England's match unless a race is actually in progress, while on television around the course will not even make that small concession to the racing.

Admission prices have also been cut, from £50 to £40 in the Club enclosure, while the change to bring a car and as many passengers as it can hold into the centre of the course has

been halved, from £20 down to £10.

In one respect, the Derby beats all its competitors out of sight. While Wembley tickets cost between £25 and £75, those at Edgbaston from £13 to £35, it is still possible to watch the Derby from the Downs for free, while entry to three of the enclosures costs £10 or less.

None the less, the attendance figures will be of considerable interest to those who feel that the Derby belongs on a Wednesday, and despite the counter-attractions, a significant increase on last year's total of 56,000 will be required if the switch to Saturday is to be considered a success.

At Edgbaston, Dennis Amis, Warwickshire's chief executive, has few such worries. "We're very pleased at the way ticket sales are going," he said yesterday. "We've sold around 18,000 of our 20,000 capacity and we should have 15,000 on Friday, and if people want to watch the football, we've probably got more television at the ground than the local shop has for sale."

The most important factor affecting attendance at Epsom, however, may have nothing to do with the sporting alternatives on offer. If, as seems likely, potential racegoers open their curtains on Saturday morning to find that a fine day is in prospect, the crowds, particularly on the exposed Downs and cheaper enclosures, could swell significantly.

For a true sports fan, after all, there can be no substitute for being there. For those without a Wembley ticket, watching the football on a television at Epsom is little different – and might indeed be rather more atmospheric – than watching from the sofa.

If the weather is kind, the stiff competition, which confronts the Derby may have rather less effect than the pessimists might suppose.

GOODWOOD

HYPERION

2.00 Diamond Beach
2.30 Thebanah
3.00 Classic Look
3.30 Clarksfield (nb)

GOING: Straight course – Good, round course – Good to Firm.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: High for 5f and 8f. High for 7f to 1m.

Right-hand course with steep bends and gradients. Suitable for the well-balanced, athletic horse.

MISSION: Richmond Endersby 5.1, Gordon 5.0, Public School 5.0, Avebury 5.0. Accompanied under 17s free all enclosures. CAR PARK: £3, or free.

LEADING TRAINERS WITH ENDS: R. Hannon – 41 winners from 386 runners since a success rate of 12.5% and a loss to a £1 level stake of £28,250; J. Gosden – 21 winners, 110 runners, 19.1%, +£4,007; 7.30p – 21 winners, 180 runners, 12.9%, +£6,977; P. Cole – 20 winners, 114 runners, 17.9%, +£5,340.

LEADING JOCKEYS: J. Ball – 26 wins, 221 rides, 18.8%, +£13,84; P. Baldry – 31 wins, 151 rides, 20.4%, +£8,40; W. Carson – 29 wins, 501 rides, 14.4%, +£4,741; T. Quinn – 29 wins, 458 rides, 11.9%, +£3,750.

WINDERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: C. D. Sayer – Targeting (4.30) won at Bath on Friday. Merit Le Roy (5.00) won at Bath on Friday.

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GOODWOOD

HYPERION

2.00 Diamond Beach
2.30 Thebanah
3.00 Classic Look
3.30 Clarksfield (nb)

GOING: Straight course – Good, round course – Good to Firm.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: High for 5f and 8f. High for 7f to 1m.

Right-hand course with steep bends and gradients. Suitable for the well-balanced, athletic horse.

MISSION: Richmond Endersby 5.1, Gordon 5.0, Public School 5.0, Avebury 5.0. Accompanied under 17s free all enclosures. CAR PARK: £3, or free.

LEADING TRAINERS WITH ENDS: R. Hannon – 41 winners from 386 runners since a success rate of 12.5% and a loss to a £1 level stake of £28,250; J. Gosden – 21 winners, 110 runners, 19.1%, +£4,007; 7.30p – 21 winners, 180 runners, 12.9%, +£6,977; P. Cole – 20 winners, 114 runners, 17.9%, +£5,340.

LEADING JOCKEYS: J. Ball – 26 wins, 221 rides, 18.8%, +£13,84; P. Baldry – 31 wins, 151 rides, 20.4%, +£8,40; W. Carson – 29 wins, 501 rides, 14.4%, +£4,741; T. Quinn – 29 wins, 458 rides, 11.9%, +£3,750.

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WINDERS IN

sport

EURO 96

Eyes of Europe on the man in the stands

Guy Hodgson talks to Glen Kirton, who will see the culmination of four years' work at Wembley on Saturday

Imagine being told you have to organise the European Championship. Is your first reaction a sharp thrill of anticipation followed by a panic attack at the enormity of what you have to do? Or maybe you sit down and calmly make a list. Wembley would be nice. Old Trafford too...

Glen Kirton took the latter course when Euro 96 was placed on his Football Association desk in July 1992 and, in around a week's time, he will find out if his agenda of tasks was sufficiently thorough. Saturday, when the tournament kicks off, is a big day for English football; it is hardly a humdrum one for him, either.

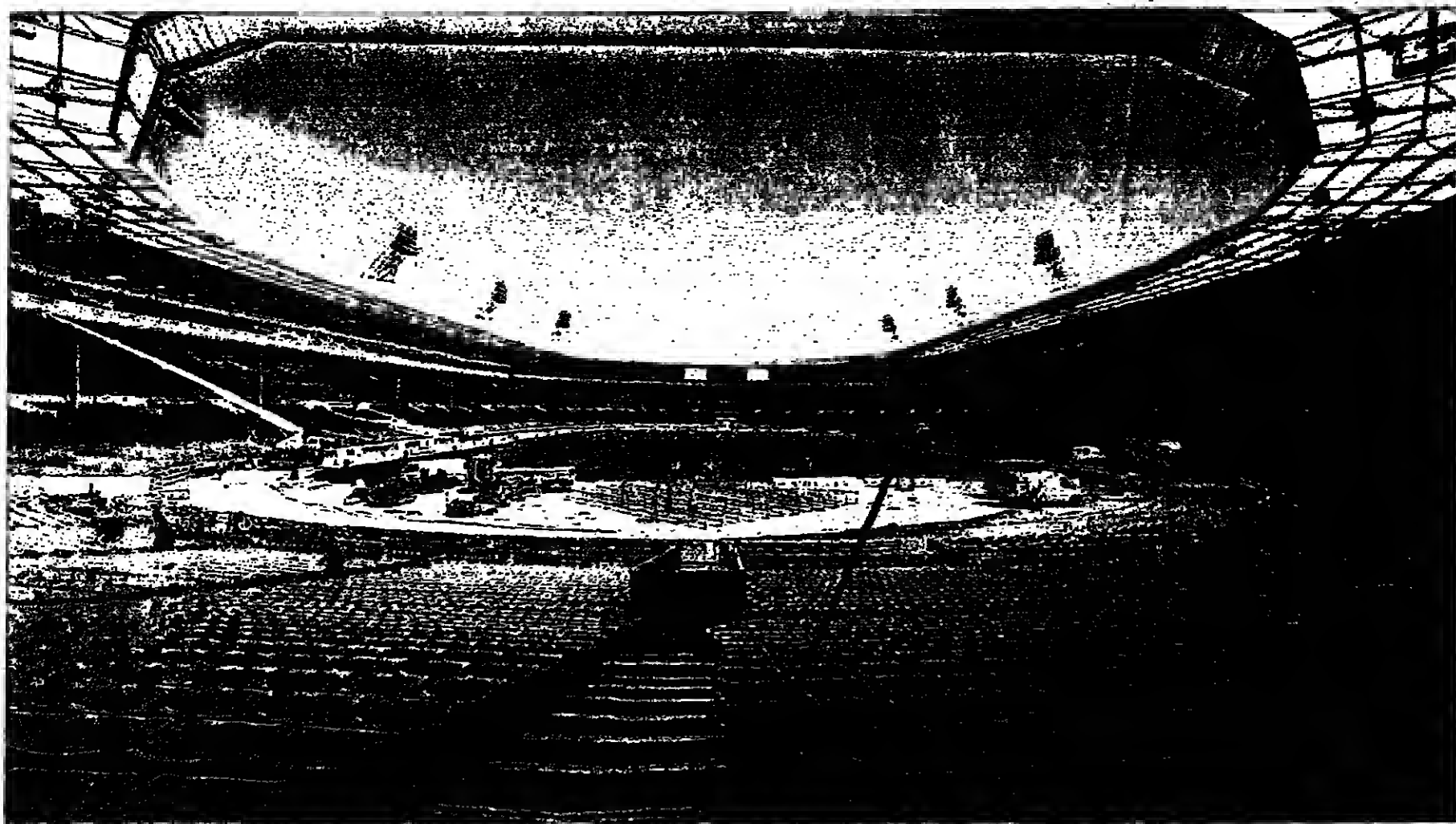
"I'm very excited," he said, betraying none of the weariness you would expect from a man who after four years has every right to scream when the words Euro and 96 come anywhere within range of each other. "My personal job is virtually completed. A team has been put together that will run the tournament for me."

This was a long way from the case in 1992. Kirton, the FA's head of external affairs, did not exactly have a blank sheet of paper to work with - he had officiated at four World Cups and four European Championships and England had recently hosted two UEFA youth tournaments and three European club finals - but it was not crammed with type either.

"The first thing was to consult people who had organised big tournaments in the past, particularly the Germans and Swedes who had run the last two European Championships," Kirton said. "Then I sat down and wrote myself a list of everything I'd need."

The biggest problem was not infrastructure. Unlike the 1990 World Cup in Italy, which had to undertake mammoth works to build new transport systems and stadiums, England had most of that already in place. In addition, the aftermath of the Taylor Report was all-seated grounds throughout the country.

More problematic was the pulling together of the various organisations who are affected when a big football



Bucket seats: Staff at Wembley stadium make final preparations for Saturday's opening game between England and Switzerland

Photograph: David Ashdown

match takes place in this country. Multiply that by the 31 games that will comprise Euro 96, 16 different sets of supporters and the problems they can bring and the out-of-season timing that adds additional strains and the scale of the task becomes apparent.

"That would be the most valuable piece of information I could pass on to anyone running an event of this nature," Kirton said. "Begin liaising with the various agencies even before you table your bid. National government, local government, police, the football clubs, transport and tourist authorities, there's a lot of people you have to talk to."

"You also have to bear in mind that, although the FA is running the

tournament, they are doing so on behalf of UEFA (European football's governing body). It's their championship and they have a big say in its running. It is UEFA, for example, who sell the television rights."

The process has not gone entirely smoothly, as the FA's embarrassment over the ticket affair proved, but it has been all but completed. Well over a million seats have been sold and around 200,000 visitors are expected. The tourist industry alone expects a windfall of around £125m.

In addition, there will be side events such as music festivals and theatre. "It's not just a football event," Kirton said. "It's a chance for England to show what it can do. It is a chance to prove this isn't a bad

place to come, perhaps for a World Cup or an Olympic Games. "I don't wake up at night worrying. No doubt problems will crop up and something minor is bound to have been forgotten, but everything is in place to deal with it."

As for boogalooism, which threatened the very tournament in the aftermath of the Dublin riot, Kirton, like everyone else, can only cross his fingers and hope.

"No one underestimates that it's a large task putting together a security system that

provides the public with the safety and security they deserve," he replied. "One thing we have - and it is for the wrong reasons - is experience. Our police are experts in crowd control and are backed up by good intelligence."

As the curtain goes up on Saturday, Kirton can begin to relax, although a holiday is not on his immediate personal list. "The first three months after the event I'll be writing the reports about the championships," he said. "One of the things football does tremendously well is liaise from tournament to tournament. It is seen as a duty to pass on experience to people who will be doing it next."

"I have to make sure the books

Milestones on the road to Euro 96

Summer 1990: English clubs readmitted to European competitions after a five-year absence.

Autumn 1990: England launch bid to stage 1998 World Cup and/or 1996 European Championship.

Spring 1991: Decision made to concentrate on bid for Euro 96.

November 1991: FA formally submits bid along with Austria, Greece, Portugal and the Netherlands.

May 1992: UEFA endorses FA's bid.

July 1992: Glen Kirton appointed tournament director.

November 1992: UEFA increases number of finalists from eight to 16.

Spring 1993: UEFA chooses eight stadiums to host Euro 96.

January 1994: Draw for qualifying competition.

October 1994: Launch of ticket sales to the public.

Summer 1995: All eight venues fulfil criteria of being all-seater and having a minimum capacity of 30,000.

December 1995: Draw for the final stages. England and Scotland are paired together in 'Group A'.

Spring 1996: Euro 96 announces the sale of one million tickets for the tournament.



'Euro 96 is not just a football event, it's also a chance for England to show what it can do'

Glen Kirton
Tournament director of Euro 96

Where language is no barrier for fans

Should a foreign supporter find himself lost round the streets of Nottingham or Newcastle over the next few weeks of the European Championship, he will have a point of salvation beyond the local police station, writes Guy Hodgson.

If he locates the information and advice centres based in every host city - and they are all centrally sited - he will find someone who can speak his own tongue, a guide book written in his language, and sympathetic directions. A pity then that neither the Football Association nor its satellite running Euro 96 will

have much right to pat themselves on the back for the service.

This is not to say that the principal organisers of the biggest sporting event to hit these shores have not been in touch with the person charged with setting up these "embassies". They rang Steve Beauchampé once.

"It was in the aftermath of the Dublin riot," Beauchampé, the international officer of the Football Supporters' Association, said, "when there was a lot of talk about whether the championships could take place here. In the event I was out and I never found out what they wanted."

"It's just typical of the attitude at the FA. Some of the people at Euro 96 are very good, particularly at local level where I think our advice and opinions are appreciated, but there's still an attitude at Lancaster Gate that we're the wrong sort of fans."

However, the Football Trust has donated £50,000 to the FSA to run the eight "embassies" in the host cities and there has been additional help from British Telecom and JCI. Some 200 people will be staffing the centres during the tournament and the vast majority of them will be unpaid volunteers.

The FSA's origins stem from the dark days of the 1980s, when English supporters had a poor reputation, and the group had a presence at the last championships and the 1990 World Cup. "My biggest worry is a really major problem like 10,000 people locked out of a ground," Beauchampé said.

"To an extent, we have to be prepared for anything and if something does go wrong the upshot will be a bit of extra work for all of us. We are one of the few public faces of the tournament. If you're in trouble, the FA won't have any offices to go to."

Dangerous Donuts on festival menu

Give or take a few banners attached to lamp posts, those people who avoid the sports pages could be forgiven for not knowing Euro 96 is about to start. Not for long. The tournament intends reaching out to minds that football does not normally locate, writes Guy Hodgson.

A vast selection of parallel events will take place over the next month that are loosely connected to the European Championship but stem mainly from the desire to expand the event beyond football grounds.

All the host cities have alternative entertainments to Coun-

try A against Country B, from the Moscow State Circus in Nottingham to a comedy festival in Liverpool. Manchester, which will have matches at Old Trafford until the semi-final stage, is typical. Under the banner, "Twenty-three days in June" the city (SoccerCity as the PR men have labelled it) will embrace Euro 96 with diversions as wide as exhibitions, concerts and fashion shows.

The day Old Trafford hosts its first match, 9 June, gives an idea of the diverse pleasures available in the eight host cities. As the football ground opens its

doors, Manchester throws down the welcome mat with a Lord Mayor's Parade, an Italia Festival and a samba party. There is also an act called Dora's Dangerous Donuts which boggles the mind.

"It's designed to promote a better image of our city," Cllr Pat Kearney, chairman of Manchester's Euro 96 committee, said. "Hopefully the events will encourage visitors to come again. Also, it gives people something to do when there's no football on. We're sports-mad round here and we'll have a festival at the drop of a hat."

The National Heritage Secretary, Virginia Bottomley, also believes Euro 96 and the cultural trimmings will encourage people to participate. "The Arts like sport," she said, "speak an international language. They attract visitors to the country from all over the world - visitors who, this June, will be able to take advantage of an unprecedented range of things to enjoy."

"Above all, the important thing about the events taking place in this 'Glorious June' is the inspiration they will give for getting people to take part themselves."

Player to watch



Hakan Sükür
(Galatasaray)

If nothing else, Hakan's nickname, "Bull of the Bosphorus", would make him worthy of attention, but his scoring record hardly makes it wise to neglect the 24-year-old striker either. A flop in Italy with Torino, his return to Turkey has been a success, scoring seven goals in eight qualifying matches en route to Euro 96.

CHAMPIONSHIP COUNTDOWN: No 12 Turkey

A proud moment for the under-achievers

By any criteria, Turkey are the great under-achievers of European football. With a population of 55 million, they ought to get a decent side together every once in a while just by the law of averages.

Their glory days, and we are clutching at straws here, came in the 1950s when they twice qualified for the finals of the World Cup. In 1950, however, they did not go to Brazil because they could not afford the air fare and four years later in Switzerland, they failed to advance from their initial group. As for the European Championship, don't ask.

So it is not difficult to see why Turkish supporters load Fatih Terim with extravagant praise for actually getting the team to England for the finals.

It is not hard to see why the 42-year-old is known as the "soccer magician". Terim, who made 51 international appearances as a centre-back and sweeper, inherited a squad in July 1993 that had won only one of eight World Cup qualifying games (against San Marino) under the Dane, Sepp Piontek. Galatasaray, Turkey's leading club side, may have been causing embarrassment in Manchester, but the national side were a mess.

Terim's response was to drop 12 players from his squad for his first match, changing from a

fragile 3-5-2 formation into a more robust 3-3-2 system. In the past the Turks would charge forward, but were more reluctant to get back; now they are harder to break down.

The results have changed and so has the attitude. "I want a team who fight as if their lives depend on it," Terim said. "I want them to battle every time they go out to play."

The players have obviously listened because they have suffered only one competitive defeat since and qualified ahead of Sweden in their group. Only

Switzerland beat them in that campaign, a reverse that was avenged in Bern last year.

Terim's team is drawn exclusively from four clubs - Galatasaray, Fenerbahçe, Beşiktaş and Trabzonspor - with the German-born Özgür Çetin the playmaker. At 33 his stamina is suspect, but if he can endure then Hakan Sükür, who has 13 goals in 23 international appearances, is likely to profit.

Turkey is unlikely to progress beyond their initial group, but for them the taking part is truly an achievement in itself. As the followers of Manchester United and Aston Villa could testify, Turkish football is improving quickly.

Guy Hodgson

SQUAD

Goalkeepers	Fenerbahçe
Rahmeti Rıza	Altay
Sarıyer Gökmen	Arslanoglu
Adnan Erikan	
Defenders	Beşiktaş
Alpay Özcan	Başkaya
Recep Çelik	Beşiktaş
Bülent Korkmaz	Galatasaray
Oğul Kömürcüoğlu	Trabzonspor
Rahim Zeki	Göztepe
Midfielders	Fenerbahçe
Bayram Korkut	Fenerbahçe
Özgür Çetin	Beşiktaş
Sergio Yalçın	Trabzonspor
Tekdemir Kardeş	Galatasaray
Abdullah Ervan	Karabükspor
Yalçın Korkmaz	
Vedat İsmail	
Forwards	Beşiktaş
Ertuğrul Sağlam	Trabzonspor
Hakan Sükür	Galatasaray
Orhan Öktem	Galatasaray
Hakan Sükür	Kocaelispor
Arif Erdem	
Saffet Savaş	
Faruk Yigit	

Dutch impress Brown

Scotland's manager, Craig Brown, returned from Rotterdam yesterday impressed by what he saw of the Netherlands in the 3-1 win over the Republic of Ireland, their final warm-up before meeting the Scots next Monday.

Brown's Dutch counterpart, Guus Hiddink, has Danny Blind suspended for that match and has lost Frank de Boer to injury, while the fitness of striker Patrick Kluivert is a concern.

"I think they are going to string us along with Kluivert," Brown said. "He didn't play at all last night but that doesn't mean he won't face us. I think they will kid us on; Hiddink is a shrewd manager."

"They looked good and they played well within themselves."

Ireland made chances, which is an encouragement to us, but at no time were the Dutch out of first gear."

Jaap Stam, the 23-year-old FSV Eintracht defender, will replace De Boer.

Alan Shearer will have to watch it should he finally score for England in Euro 96, for players have been warned by UEFA not to "over-celebrate" goals. The order by the European governing body has even banned triumphal laps of honour. If victorious sides "wish to salute their supporters they should do so from the centre circle" is the instruction. It is all part of the organisers' efforts to avoid crowd trouble. Referees will punish individuals whose goal celebrations are considered provocative.

Euro 96

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سكركا من الامل

Rosset makes a late recovery

Tennis

JOHN ROBERTS
reports from Paris

Excited spectators began queuing for Cedric Pioline in mid-afternoon, and were rather disappointed to find that a couple of foreigners were still hogging the Centre Court. Yesterday was supposed to belong to a Frenchman.

Watching Switzerland's Olympic champion, Marc Rosset, retrieve a two-set deficit to defeat Germany's Bernd Karbacher, 4-6, 4-6, 6-3, 7-5, 6-0, held only limited appeal. For one thing, the match lacked the drama and emotion of Pete Sampras's comeback against Jim Courier the day before. For another thing, it dragged on for three and a half hours. Still, it was an opportunity to see Pioline's semi-final opponent.

The wishful thinking ceased when Michael Stich imposed his will on the proceedings, beating Pioline, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2. The only occasions the German No 15 seed showed signs of wavering were during the second set, when his concentration was disturbed by spectators reacting noisily to his questioning of line calls, and in the opening game of the third

set, when Pioline forced him to save three break points.

Stich, who underwent surgery three months ago after aggravating an ankle injury while dressing in a locker-room in Milan, only decided to come to the French Open at the last moment. Short of clay-court matches, he thought it might be better to prepare for Wimbledon early.

History suggests he made the right decision. On the previous occasion he advanced to the French Open semi-finals, losing to Courier in 1991, he went on to win the Wimbledon title.

Rosset, the No 14 seed, has also recovered from a bizarre injury. He became so frustrated at the points being missed when playing mixed doubles with the 15-year-old Martina Hingis at the Hopman Cup in Perth in January that he belted an advertising board with his racket, damaging his hand. Unfortunately, he did not notice that the board was supported by a metal bar.

Rosset, in common with Stich and Sampras, has a penchant for attacking play, and sunny conditions have contributed to making the courts slightly faster than usual. One can imagine the frustration experienced by Boris Becker as sits out the champ-

ionships, nursing a strained thigh.

Sampras, who tomorrow plays the Russian No 6 seed, Yevgeny Kafelnikov, was still wearing a tennis shirt and shorts when he turned up to receive his award at the ITF World Championships' Dinner on Tuesday night.

"I must apologise for being over-dressed," Sampras told the dinner-suited guests, who were simply pleased to see him so soon after his five-set marathon.

Sampras paid tribute to his late coach, Tim Gullikson. "The last two months have been very emotional for me," he said, "but he's with me in my head, in my brain. I have to believe in me today. I miss him and wish he was here to share these matches with me. A lot of my results this year have been for my friend, who no longer with us."

Earlier, when asked where the needle was on his gas tank after playing three five-set matches, Sampras said: "It's not on empty. These two days off are going to be good for me to get some energy back. Kafelnikov is a good clay-court player. Again, I have to believe I can win that match. I've done it before, in Moscow, so I certainly hope it happens again."

Reviewing the Courier match, he said: "In the course of the tournament, with the long matches I played, maybe it took its toll. Fortunately the court was playing reasonably quick, and my serve just kind of won it for me. At the end I got a lot of free points, quick points, which helped me to recover that much quicker. After some long exchanges we had, it was a little bit tough to catch my breath."

"I don't know if I really believed I could win these matches in the past against the Brugueras and Couriers. Playing Kafelnikov, I know what to expect and vice versa. I know what he likes."

"He's pretty much breezed through this tournament without any problems. He's playing with a lot of confidence. Two beaten him before, so there's no reason why I can't do it again. It's going to be a good fight."

Which has become par for the course for as he attempts to become only the fifth player in history to win all four Grand Slam titles in his career.



Picture of concentration: Marc Rosset on his way to victory yesterday. Photograph: AP

Millns starts Kent slide

Cricket

Kent 318-8 v Leicestershire

Kent built a powerful position on the opening day of their Championship match against Leicestershire at Grace Road yesterday, only to spoil it by surrendering three wickets in three overs without scoring a run.

The Championship leaders were cruising into what looked to be an unproblematic position at 310 for 5 when they were undone by the second new ball. David Millns dismissed Graham Chapman for a duck, and in-between Phil Simmons trapped Steve Marsh before he got 51.

That set Kent back on their heels and left the match evened. Millns finished the day with 2 for 38 and bowled well enough to deserve better, while Simmons had 3 for 43 off 18

overs. One of his victims was Trevor Ward, who hit a magnificent 90 in just under three hours off 139 balls, hitting 15 fours.

It took a sensational running catch on the square-leg boundary by Darren Maddy to remove him. If Maddy had not clung on to the catch, the ball would have carried over the boundary for six.

While Ward was in the middle, Kent looked to be in the driving seat. After the early loss of Matthew Fleming, Ward and David Fulton started a second-wicket stand of 94 before Fulton edged Simmons to Paul Nixon. Three more half-centuries followed - the best of them a sixth-wicket stand of 85 between Cowdrey and his captain, Marsh.

They came together with the score at 225 but took it to 310 with very few problems until third-leaved Leicestershire

claimed the new ball half an hour from the close.

The departure of Cowdrey for a batting 71 was a body blow to Kent, who were hoping to captainise Leicestershire's loss of their leading wicket-taker, Alan Mullally, to the England Test squad.

Nathan Wood, the 21-year-old son of Barry, the former Lancashire and England opener, is in line for his first-team debut as Lancashire make do without five first-team regulars in the Championship match against Essex, which starts at Chelmsford today.

Wicketkeeper Lindsay Walker also samples Championship action for the first time for Nottinghamshire in their meeting with Northamptonshire at Trent Bridge. Walker, born in Australia but now qualified to play for England, will take the place of the former Northamptonshire player, Wayne Noon.

Hamed is on a short fuse

Boxing

Prince Naseem Hamed's sparring feats may not have matched David's slaying of Goliath, but the feedback from his outside sparring partners in the countdown to Saturday's second defence of his title in Newcastle indicates that Hamed could be punching even harder than ever.

The World Boxing Organisation's preparations to face Puerto Rico's Daniel Alieca have been characteristically unorthodox.

Johnny Nelson, the former British and European cruiserweight champion, stands around eight inches taller and something like five stones heavier than the diminutive Sheffield fighter, yet Hamed put him out of action for two days following a bout of sparring.

Nelson, soon to challenge Terry Dunstan for his former British title, said: "Naz caught me on the collar bone and trapped a nerve, so I had to take a couple of days off. Once he hit me on the chin and it was like someone had switched the light on and off. He hasn't floored me, but he nearly has."

"People can't believe that this little guy can do that. He can't spar with anyone of his weight because he would just destroy them."

Hamed will be eyeing another Nelson if he disposes of the unbeaten Alieca; Ghana's Azumah, the veteran World Boxing Council super-featherweight champion. The promoter Frank Warren will be working to match the fighters

in September if Hamed defeats Alieca. One offer in excess of £700,000 could not tempt Nelson, so Warren will have to dig deeper into his pocket to secure the billing. There is also the possibility of a spot on the Bruce Seldon-Mike Tyson bill in Las Vegas on 13 July.

The Alieca defence will give Hamed his first real opportunity of substantial Stateside exposure, with the contest available to around 15m homes in America, via the Showtime cable network.

"Everyone in the States is going to hear about me, because in my eyes I'm the best fighter in the world," Hamed said. "I can't wait for the Americans to see me because I'm going to shock them. I'll send shock waves all over America. I'll probably be their ideal fighter. They definitely know me in Las Vegas, they call me 'the bomb'."

Gary Jacobs' attempt to regain the European welterweight title from the Frenchman Patrick Charpentier in Dunkirk on 14 June will amount to a world title final eliminator.

The Glaswegian's manager, Mickey Duff, confirmed yesterday that Jacobs has been installed as the No 1 contender to the formidable International Boxing Federation champion, Felix Trinidad of Puerto Rico.

Charpentier has been elevated to No 2, so there will be plenty at stake for both men on Friday night. Jacobs is pursuing his second attempt at the world crown, having been out-scored by Pernell Whitaker in Atlantic City last August.

Wood overcomes call

Clare Wood remained unruffled by a poor line-call at the Beckenham Open yesterday to prove there is still a flicker of life in British women's tennis. The umpire John Clayton ruled in a shot from an Australian qualifier, Siobhan Drake-Brockman, that appeared to land well beyond the baseline.

"Everyone around the court could see it was at least six inches out," Wood said. "I was so frustrated because that would have given me the first set, 6-4. It was a blatant mistake. However, the national champion recovered her composure to gain a quarter-final place with a 5-7, 6-1, 6-4, success."

Wood, who is six months into her rehabilitation from a serious hamstring injury which kept her out for a year, said: "I'm looking for match practice on grass as I will probably have

to qualify for Wimbledon for the first time. If I get enough points on grass I could climb back in to the top 100, which is where I was before my injury."

Her performance was a rare British highlight. By the end of the second day, home interest had dwindled from 21 to six. Shirai-Aon Siddall lost 2-6, 2-6, against the American No 8 seed, Erika De Leme, while Jo Ward went down in straight sets against Japan's No 3 seed, Rika Hiraki, 2-6, 3-6.

Among the men, Kent's Colin Beecher succumbed to Germany's Christian Saecmann, the seventh seed Danny Sapsford lost in three sets to South Africa's Chris Haggard, Nick Weal went out against another South African, Marcos Ondruska, and Andrew Richardson failed to survive his first-round hurdle against Tom Spinks.

Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Oakland 8, Toronto 3; Boston 4, Chicago Cubs 6; Cleveland 7, Seattle 10; New York Yankees 9, Philadelphia 10; St Louis 10, Minnesota 5; California 3, Baltimore 10; Detroit 7.

NATIONALS LEAGUE: Florida 5, Montreal 6; Cincinnati 3, San Francisco 1; Atlanta 6, New York Mets 10; Houston 10, Colorado 3; Los Angeles 6, Pittsburgh 3; San Diego 5, St Louis 11.

Cycling

ITALY: 15th stage (218km, Meda to Vicenza). Leading: 1. M. Geronzi (Ita) 2:54.00; 2. G. Lascaris (Ita) 2:54.00; 3. S. Basso (Ita) 2:54.00; 4. M. Geronzi (Ita) 2:54.00; 5. G. Lascaris (Ita) 2:54.00; 6. S. Basso (Ita) 2:54.00; 7. M. Geronzi (Ita) 2:54.00; 8. G. Lascaris (Ita) 2:54.00; 9. S. Basso (Ita) 2:54.00; 10. M. Geronzi (Ita) 2:54.00; 11. G. Lascaris (Ita) 2:54.00; 12. S. Basso (Ita) 2:54.00; 13. M. Geronzi (Ita) 2:54.00; 14. G. Lascaris (Ita) 2:54.00; 15. S. Basso (Ita) 2:54.00.

Golf

Holger Clark, who finally won an invitation to the US Open after 22 years, has had to withdraw from the event because of a bad cold. Clark, who won the 1974 US Open, is expected to return to the tournament in 1997.

Football

Striker Peter Ndlovu and his Swiss-based brother Adam for the second leg of their Championship play-off against Millwall. Ndlovu, who has been offered a coaching post with the club, is expected to return to Southampton after his month's absence in the squad.

Ice hockey

STANLEY CUP: Philadelphia 3, Florida 1. Colorado led best-of-seven series 4-0.

Rugby League

Danny Arnold, the prolific St Helens winger, led the way as Great Britain's Academy side crushed the French tourists 22-10 in Carrington yesterday. Arnold scored four tries and kicked eight goals from 10 attempts for a personal tally of 52 points.

Rugby Union

The England winger John Strydom's summer return with Gloucestershire has been delayed by a bad cold. Strydom, who is expected to return to the team in 1997, is expected to return to the team in 1997.

Tennis

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Cricket

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Injury fear mars

Cipollini's win Mario Cipollini sprinted to his fourth victory in the Tour of Italy yesterday, but may not complete the 3,955-kilometre race which ends in Milan on Sunday. The Italian complained of knee trouble which could make him a doubtful starter for the mountainous days ahead.

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Christie's coach adds to Olympic speculation

Athletics
MIKE ROWBOTTOM

Lifelong Christie's coach, Ron Roddan, yesterday added his voice to those suggesting that the Olympic 100 metres champion will defend his title next month. Christie may not have committed himself to running in Atlanta, but this week there have been heavy hints from those closest to him, including training partners Colin Jackson and Frankie Fredericks, that he will go.

Roddan, who has guided Christie's career for 12 years, acknowledged that the 36-year-old sprinter was reaching the end of an illustrious career, but suggested the attractions of a final Olympic challenge were too strong to ignore. "Lifelong is enjoying his running more now than he has been for a long time," Roddan told BBC Radio Four's Today programme. "This is likely to be his last year at the top level and I think he will go out doing the things he loves to do."

Asked if Christie was afraid of failure, Roddan replied: "He has nothing left to prove. He has shown over the last 10 years that he is one of the top sprinters in the world and one of the best athletes this country has ever had."

Jackson, who trained alongside Christie, double silver medalist Fredericks and world champion Merlene Ottey in Australia earlier in the year, has also suggested Christie will appear in Atlanta. When asked if the four had gathered in a joint quest to win gold, the Welshman replied with a smile: "We all want gold. We've all got a similar goal in mind and we are working together for that end."

The British Athletic Federation have not pressed Christie for a decision on Atlanta, saying their senior – and most successful – figure has earned every right to take his time before making an announcement. So it now appears likely that the decision will come next week at Britain's Olympic trials in Birmingham, where Christie has said all along that he will compete.

The team is picked immediately afterwards and the selectors need to know – if only out of courtesy to his domestic rivals – what his intentions are. In the meantime, Judy Oakes, who achieved the best ever result by a British female thrower at a major championship last weekend, is facing an Olympic build-up without competition.

Oakes, who putted the shot exactly 19 metres at the European Cup in Madrid to finish second, behind Germany's world champion, Astrid Kumbruss, is angry that her event will not feature in any of the forthcoming domestic meetings this season.

"I have proved that I am a world-class athlete," she said in Madrid. "I was competing against some 21m putters here and I have shown that I am not afraid of them. But what chance have I got if my event is not included?"

Mullally awaits verdict on pitch

Cricket
DEREK PRINGLE
reports from Edgbaston

First Tests are normally vital in deciding the outcome of a series, particularly in a three-match rubber, where scope for manoeuvre and regrouping is limited. It is curious then, that England have chosen to play this first Test at Edgbaston, the scene of their fastest defeat since the war. Their loss here to the West Indies last year took less than seven sessions.

However, the decision has also left England in a quandary over their bowling attack for today's first Test against India. So far, the deliberate decision to let players know their role as soon as possible has been laudable. That fact that none of the three potential debutants will know their fate until later this morning is therefore out of character and seems to suggest that the pitch has not quite lived up to its pre-match billing.

A few days ago, reports of a well-grassed surface prompted talk of an all-steam attack. Yesterday, that had all changed and spin was the word on everyone's lips – including those of the England captain – after a close

inspection revealed a well-cracked pitch, which will produce the sort of uneven bounce which might explain why Warwickshire have won the Championship more often recently than, say, Lancashire.

If Min Patel, Kent's Bombay-born left-arm spinner, does make his debut – and he now looks certain to do so – Ronnie Irani, at the expense of John Crawley, is almost bound to join him and will bat at six. It is a tactic the England captain confirmed at yesterday's press conference, though it was not fully endorsed by his coach, David Lloyd.

More difficult altogether will be the choice of third seamer between Peter Martin and Alan Mullally. That decision is unlikely to be made until this morning when the selectors have had another chance to assess the pitch.

They may also, given India's two spinners, consider Mullally's propensity to run on the pitch. With his first follow-through stride landing about seven feet down around off stump, he not only risks censure from the umpires – which can lead to a ban from bowling for the rest of the innings – but he will also be creating a custom-made dustbowl for Anil Kumble, India's match-winning spinner, to exploit.

Mind you, it seems strange that after Raymond Illingworth's talk of wanting someone with pace that Mullally could miss out. When Martin has rhythm and is swinging the ball, he is the ideal bowler to trouble Indian batsmen, who are used to taking liberties like playing across the line. On the other hand, this is likely to be the quickest pitch that England will play India on this summer, and Mullally, having put on at least a yard of pace after a winter of intensive training, ought to be given his head.

Atherton, who watched the first ball of last year's Test from Curtly Ambrose's hand, has far less to worry about than his opposite number, whose popularity back home has reportedly plummeted in the wake of Navjot Singh's sudden and acrimonious retirement.

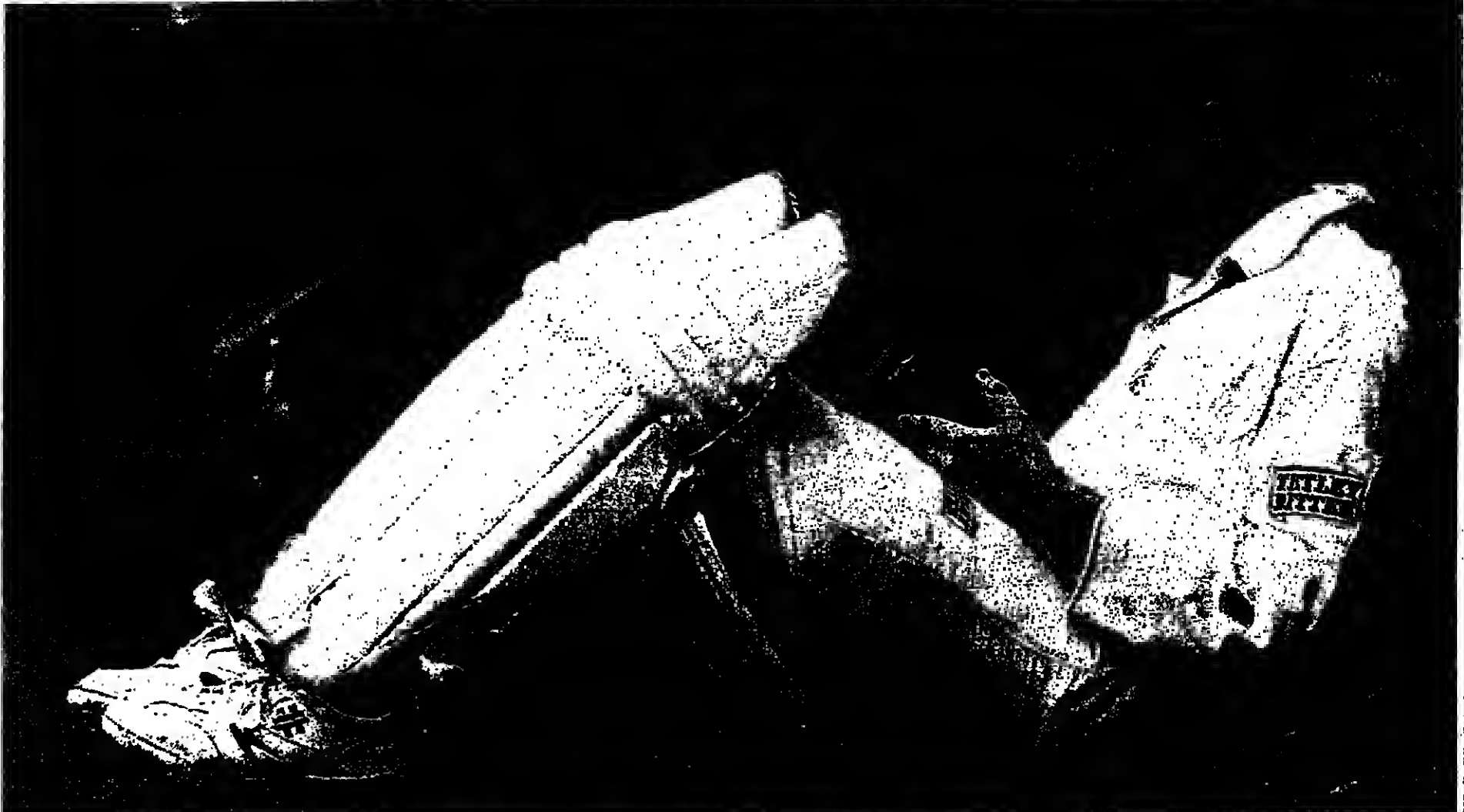
It is a big Test for both captains, and depending on the result, one that could begin to bring further judgement on both their futures as leaders. "I never let these things affect me," said Azharuddin, whose batting touch in recent

games is once again approaching its sublime best. "I'm not hassled. It's just that we didn't play well in the Test series. Anyway we are looking forward to the Tests. They are very important to us as we don't play many. But we need to apply our mind if we are to play well."

That could prove difficult especially after a two-year diet of one-day cricket where techniques and concentration can fall foul of bad habits. That said, India still possess a formidable middle-order with Sanjay Man-

jekar, Tendulkar and Azharuddin likely to prove the biggest obstacle to an England victory. India have only ever won three Tests in England and although none were at Edgbaston, England's batsmen cannot afford to be complacent. As a pair of new ball bowlers, Javagal Srinath and Venkatesh Prasad have greatly impressed and, despite finishing on the losing side after the one-dayers, outbowled their England counterparts.

Hot weather is forecast, which will suit India who did not



Study in concentration: Mike Atherton, the England captain, complete with camcorder at Edgbaston yesterday

Photograph: Peter Jay

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17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32

- ACROSS**
- 1 Dashing swordsman's first impression (9)
 - 6 Sour fruit Carthaginian family mostly rejected (4)
 - 10 Declaration of independence inhibited by a time check? (5)
 - 11 Prejudice, a spirit unfavourable for introduction of voting reform (5, 4)
 - 12 Vehicle with power roadholding in Lewis? (7)
 - 13 Manage to link account with energy consumed by industrial premises? (7)
 - 14 Bill may have him as a sponsor (7, 6)
 - 17 Street features reflected in truck windows? (7, 6)
 - 21 Diversionary target offered by a race meeting (7)
 - 22 Sensible people pick such things up (7)
 - 24 Compensation, dear, somehow upper-class types will accept (5, 4)
 - 25 A manuscript found beside old papers (5)
 - 26 Male journalist gives notice (3)
 - 27 Telephotography attempts unlikely to succeed? (4, 5)
- DOWN**
- 1 Flight initially detained in South America affording view from Rio? (8)
 - 2 Plug, one fitted into linoleum for navigational aid (5)
 - 3 Country air which will soon have us on our feet? (8, 6)
 - 4 Means whereby one primarily microwaves vegetables? (7)
 - 5 Rubbish originally brought into service station (7)
 - 7 Fine dust could be an oxide (4, 5)
 - 8 Request risky investment should cover a group of currencies (6)
 - 9 Lack of vision, whilst the rest of us have dreams? (5, 9)
 - 15 Join with others in badly treating English (9)
 - 16 When Bishop's office has to accept Sunday School estimates? (8)
 - 18 Timid fellow gets a load of abuse (7)
 - 19 German boy entertained by politician's song (7)
 - 20 Take in feeble child, poor thing (6)
 - 23 Cheer given by supporter having volume reduced? (5)

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Donis decides on Blackburn

Football
ANDREW MARTIN

Alan Shearer's domestic goal supply line was bolstered yesterday when Blackburn secured the signature of the Panathinaikos winger, Yorgos Donis. The 26-year-old Greek international, who was believed to be a target for Manchester United, Arsenal and Rangers after helping the Athens club reach the semi-finals of the European Cup, agreed terms after visiting Ewood Park.

Donis, who has 27 caps, is believed to have negotiated a £20,000 per-week deal after becoming available on a free transfer. He is expected to make Stuart Ripley's place on the right flank, but Blackburn's attempt to land the Frenchman, Christophe Duguey, seems to have faltered. The Bordeaux striker indicated that he would prefer to stay on the continent.

"We have watched him [Donis] over several months involving matches right across Europe," Tony Parkes, Blackburn's assistant manager, said. "He is exceptionally quick."

Dr Massini may miss Derby

Racing
RICHARD EDMONDSON

The doctor was unwell yesterday and so were a lot of punters. Dr Massini, the ante-post favourite for Saturday's Derby at Epsom, has suffered a recurrence of a foot injury and is "highly likely" to miss the Classic.

Michael Stoute's colt did not race as a juvenile because of niggling problems and was lame again immediately after propelling himself to Epsom's favouritism in the Glasgow Stakes at York last month.

Stoute has warned in the interim that the horse has a penchant for finding trouble. Seldom can he have found less pleasure in the justification he discovered yesterday in a box at

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